

A BOOK OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE





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A BOOK OF ENGLISH LITERATURE



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TORONTO

A BOOK OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

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PREFACE

IN preparing this volume, primarily intended for college courses in the development of English literature, the editors have tried to give to the most important men a representation more adequate than they have been accorded in previous volumes of the kind, and so comprehensive that whoever uses the book will find a considerable range of possible selection. In addition, the editors have included enough work by men of secondary importance to fill the gaps between the larger figures, and to make this text adequate for any survey of English literature from Chaucer to Meredith, save in the fields of drama and fiction. Fiction has been omitted for obvious reasons. The drama would have been excluded entirely, had it not been felt that some teachers would be glad of a specimen miracle play. An appendix containing brief biographies of the chief men represented, and bibliographical suggestions, may be of assistance to those who desire to use the volume without an accompanying history.

In certain respects the texts here presented have been standardized. Punctuation has been modernized; the spelling *-or* instead of *-our* for words such as *honor*, *labor*, etc., has been adopted; except in a few obvious instances, the full form of the weak past participle in *-ed* has been used throughout the volume.

The thanks of the editors are due to Professor R. E. Neil Dodge, of the University of Wisconsin, and Houghton Mifflin Company, for permission to use the *Cambridge* text of Spenser. Stevenson's *Aes Triplex* is taken from the *Thistle* edition, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, the authorized publishers of Stevenson's works. The debt of the editors to such standard works as Skeat's *Oxford Chaucer*, Child's *Ballads*, and Lucas's *Lamb*, will be recognized by all who use the book.



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A BOOK OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

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THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES

GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1340-1400)

THE PROLOGUE

Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the
rote,

And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth⁵
Inspired hath in every holt¹ and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne,
And smale fowles maken melodye,
That slepen al the night with open yē,¹⁰
(So priketh hem nature in hir corages²):
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
(And palmers for to seken straunge
strondes)

To ferne³ halwes,⁴ couthe⁵ in sondry lon-
des;

And specially, from every shires ende¹⁵
Of Engelond, to Caunterbury they wende,
The holy blisful martir for to seke,
That hem hath holpen, whan that they
were seke.

Bifel that, in that seson on a day,
In Southwerk at the Tabard as I lay²⁰
Redy to wenden on my pilgrimage
To Caunterbury with ful devout corage,
At night was come in-to that hostelrye
Wel nyne and twenty in a companye,
Of sondry folk, by aventure⁶ y-falle⁷²⁵
In felawshipe, and pilgrims were they
alle,

That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde;
The chambres and the stables weren wyde,
And wel we weren esed atte beste.⁸
And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste,
So hadde I spoken with hem everichon,³¹
That I was of hir felawshipe anon,
And made forward⁹ erly for to ryse,
To take our wey, ther as I yow devyse.

But natheles, whyl I have tyme and
space,³⁵

¹ wood. ² hearts. ³ distant. ⁴ shrines. ⁵ known.
⁶ chance. ⁷ fallen. ⁸ "entertained in the best manner."
⁹ agreement.

Er that I ferther in this tale pace,
Me thinketh it acordaunt to resoun,
To telle yow al the condicioun
Of ech of hem, so as it semed me,
And whiche they weren, and of what
degree;

And eek in what array that they were
inne:

And at a knight than wol I first biginne.
A KNIGHT ther was, and that a worthy
man,

That fro the tyme that he first bigan
To ryden out, he loved chivalrye,⁴⁵
Trouthe and honour, fredom and cur-
teiseye.

Ful worthy was he in his lordes werre,¹⁰
And therto hadde he riden (no man ferre¹¹)
As wel in Cristendom as hethenesse,
And ever honoured for his worthinesse.⁵⁰
At Alisaundre he was, whan it was wonne;
Ful ofte tyme he hadde the bord bi-
gonne¹²

Aboven alle naciouns in Pruce.

In Lettow hadde he reysed¹³ and in Ruce,
No Cristen man so ofte of his degree.⁵⁵
In Gernade at the sege eek hadde he be
Of Algezir, and riden in Belmarye.

At Lyeys was he, and at Satalye,
Whan they were wonne; and in the Grete
See

At many a noble aryve¹⁴ hadde he be.⁶⁰
At mortal batailles hadde he been fiftene,
And foughten for our feith at Tramissene
In listes thryes, and ay slayn his foo.

This ilke worthy knight hadde been also
Somtyme with the lord of Palatye,⁶⁵
Ageyn another hethen in Turkye:

And evermore he hadde a sovereign
prys.¹⁵

And though that he were worthy, he was
wys,

And of his port as meke as is a mayde.
He never yet no vileinye ne sayde⁷⁰
In al his lyf, un-to no maner wight.¹⁶
He was a verray parfit gentil knight.

¹⁰ war.

¹² "he had been placed at the head of the table."

¹³ gone on an expedition.

¹⁶ reputation.

¹¹ farther.

¹⁴ disembarkation.

¹⁵ no sort of person.

But for to tellen yow of his array,
 His hors¹ were goode, but he was nat gay.
 Of fustian he wered a gipoun² 75
 Al bismotered³ with his habergeoun;⁴
 For he was late y-come from his viage,⁵
 And wente for to doon his pilgrimage.

With him ther was his sone, a yong
 SQUYER,
 A lovyere, and a lusty bachelor, 80
 With lokkes crulle,⁶ as they were leyd in
 presse.

Of twenty yeer of age he was, I gesse.
 Of his stature he was of evene lengthe,⁷
 And wonderly deliver,⁸ and greet of
 strengthe.

And he had been somtyme in chivachye,⁹
 In Flaundres, in Artoys, and Picardye, 86
 And born him wel, as of so litel space,¹⁰
 In hope to stonden in his lady¹¹ grace.
 Embrouded¹² was he, as it were a mede¹³
 Al ful of fresshe floures, whyte and rede. 90
 Singinge he was, or floytinge,¹⁴ al the day;
 He was as fresh as is the month of May.
 Short was his gounne, with sleeves longe and
 wyde.

Wel coude he sitte on hors, and faire ryde.
 He coude songes make and wel endyte, 95
 Iuste¹⁵ and eek daunce, and wel purtreye¹⁶
 and wryte.

So hote¹⁷ he lovede, that by nightertale¹⁸
 He sleep namore than dooth a nightin-
 gale.

Curteys he was, lowly, and servisable,
 And carf biforn his fader at the table. 100

A YEMAN hadde he; and servaunts namo
 At that tyme, for his liste¹⁹ ryde so;
 And he was clad in cote and hood of grene;
 A sheef of peacock-arwes brighte and kene
 Under his belt he bar ful thriiftily, 105
 (Wel coude he dresse his takel²⁰ yemanly:
 His arwes drouped noght with fetheres
 lowe),

And in his hand he bar a mighty bowe.
 A not-heed²¹ hadde he, with a broun
 visage.

Of wode-craft wel coude he al the usage. 110
 Upon his arm he bar a gay bracer,²²
 And by his syde a swerd and a bokeler,
 And on that other syde a gay daggere,

¹ horses (plural). ² doublet. ³ spotted.
⁴ coat of mail. ⁵ voyage. ⁶ curly.
⁷ ordinary height. ⁸ active. ⁹ military expedition.
¹⁰ "considering the short time he had served."
¹¹ lady's. ¹² adorned. ¹³ meadow. ¹⁴ fluting.
¹⁵ joust. ¹⁶ draw. ¹⁷ hotly. ¹⁸ in the night-time.
¹⁹ it pleased him. ²⁰ take care of his weapons.
²¹ cropped head. ²² guard.

Harneised²³ wel, and sharp as point of
 spere;

A Cristofre²⁴ on his brest of silver shene. 115
 An horn he bar, the bawdrik²⁵ was of grene;
 A forster²⁶ was he, soothly, as I gesse.

Ther was also a Nonne, a PRIORESSE,
 That of hir smyling was ful simple and
 coy; 119

Hir gretteste ooth was but by sēynt Loy,
 And she was cleped²⁷ madame Eglentyne.
 Ful wel she song the service divyne,
 Entuned in hir nose ful semely;
 And Frensh she spak ful faire and fetisly,²⁸
 After the scole of Stratford atte Bowe, 125
 For Frensh of Paris was to hir unknowe.

At mete wel y-taught was she with-alle;
 She leet no morsel from hir lippes falle,
 Ne wette hir fingres in hir sauce depe.
 Wel coude she carie a morsel, and wel
 kepe, 130

That no drope ne fille up-on hir brest.
 In curteisye was set ful moche hir lest.²⁹
 Hir over lippe wyped she so clene,
 That in hir coppe was no ferthing sene
 Of grece, when she dronken hadde hir
 draughte. 135

Ful semely after hir mete she raughte,³⁰
 And sikerly³¹ she was of greet disport,³²
 And full plesaunt, and amiable of port,³³
 And peyned hir³⁴ to countrefete chere³⁵
 Of court, and been estatlich³⁶ of manere, 140
 And to ben holden digne³⁷ of reverence.

But, for to speken of hir conscience,³⁸
 She was so charitable and so pitous,
 She wolde wepe, if that she sawe a mous
 Caught in a trappe, if it were deed or
 bledde. 145

Of smale houndes had she, that she fedde
 With rosted flesh, or milk and wastel
 breed.³⁹

But sore weep she if oon of hem were deed,
 Or if men smoot it with a yerde smerte:
 And al was conscience and tendre herte. 150
 Ful semely hir wimpel pinched⁴⁰ was;
 Hir nose tretys;⁴¹ hir eyen greye as glas;
 Hir mouth ful smal, and ther-to softe and
 reed;

But sikerly she hadde a fair forheed;
 It was almost a spanne brood, I trowe; 155

²³ equipped.
²⁴ "figure of St. Christopher used as a brooch."
²⁵ belt. ²⁶ forester. ²⁷ named. ²⁸ elegantly.
²⁹ pleasure. ³⁰ reached. ³¹ truly. ³² fond of pleasure.
³³ behavior. ³⁴ tried hard. ³⁵ deportment.
³⁶ dignified. ³⁷ worthy. ³⁸ tenderness of heart.
³⁹ fine bread. ⁴⁰ pleated. ⁴¹ well proportioned.

For, hardily, she was nat undergrowe.
 Ful fetis¹ was hir cloke, as I was war.
 Of smal coral aboute hir arm she bar
 A peire² of bedes, gauded al with grene;
 And ther-on heng a broche of gold ful
 shene, 160
 On which ther was first write a crowned A,
 And after, *Amor vincit omnia*.

Another NONNE with hir hadde she,
 That was hir chapeleyne, and PREESTES
 thre.

A MONK ther was, a fair for the mais-
 trye,³ 165

An out-rydere, that lovede venerye;⁴
 A manly man, to been an abbot able.
 Ful many a deyntee hors hadde he in
 stable:

And, when he rood, men mighte his brydel
 here

Ginglen in a whistling wind as clere, 170
 And eek as loude as dooth the chapel-belle,
 Ther as this lord was keper of the celle.
 The reule of seint Maure or of seint Beneit,
 By-cause that it was old and som-del
 streit,⁵ 174

This ilke⁶ monk leet olde thinges pace,⁷
 And held after the newe world the space.
 He yaf⁸ nat of that text a pulled hen,
 That seith, that hunters been nat holy
 men;

Ne that a monk, whan he is cloisterlees,
 Is lykned til a fish that is waterlees; 180
 This is to seyn, a monk out of his cloistre.
 But thilke text held he nat worth an oistre.
 And I seyde, his opinioun was good.
 What sholde he studie, and make him-
 selven wood,⁹

Upon a book in cloistre alwey to poure, 185
 Or swinken¹⁰ with his handes, and laboure,
 As Austin bit? How shal the world be
 served?

Lat Austin have his swink to him reserved.
 Therefore he was a pricasour¹¹ aright;
 Grehoundes he hadde, as swifte as fowel
 in flight; 190

Of priking¹² and of hunting for the hare
 Was al his lust, for no cost wolde he spare.
 I seigh his sleeves purfild¹³ at the hond
 With grys,¹⁴ and that the fyneste of a
 lond;

And, for to festne his hood under his chin,

He hadde of gold y-wroght a curious pin:
 A love-knotte in the gretter ende ther was.
 His heed was balled, that shoon as any
 glas, 198

And eek his face, as he had been anoint.
 He was a lord ful fat and in good point;¹⁵
 His eyen stepe,¹⁶ and rollinge in his heed,
 That stemed¹⁷ as a forneys of a leed;¹⁸
 His botes souple, his hors in greet estat.
 Now certainly he was a fair prelat;
 He was nat pale as a for-pyned¹⁹ goost. 205
 A fat swan loved he best of any roost.

His palfrey was as broun as is a berye.

A FRERE there was, a wantown and a
 merye,

A limitour,²⁰ a ful solempne²¹ man.

In alle the ordres foure is noon that can²²

So moche of daliaunce and fair langage.²¹¹

He hadde maad ful many a mariage

Of yonge wommen, at his owne cost.

Un-to his ordre he was a noble post.

Ful wel biloved and famulier was he 215

With frankeleyns²³ over-al in his contree,

And eek with worthy wommen of the
 toun:

For he had power of confessioun,

As seyde him-self, more than a curat,

For of his ordre he was licentiat.²⁴ 220

Ful swetely herde he confessioun,

And plesaunt was his absolucioun;

He was an esy man to yeve²⁵ penaunce

Ther-as he wiste to han a good pitaunce;

For unto a povre order for to yive 225

Is signe that a man is wel y-shrive.

For if he yaf, he dorste make avaunt,²⁶

He wiste that a man was repentaunt.

For many a man so hard is of his herte,

He may nat wepe al-though him sore

smerte. 230

Therefore, in stede of weping and preyeres,

Men moot yeve silver to the povre freres.

His tipet was ay farsed²⁷ full of knyves

And pinnes, for to yeven faire wyves.

And certainly he hadde a mery note; 235

Wel coude he synge and pleyen on a rote.²⁸

Of yeddinges²⁹ he bar utterly the prys.

His nekke whyt was as the flour-de-lys;

Ther-to he strong was as a champioun.

He knew the tavernes well in every

toun, 240

¹⁵ in good condition.

¹⁶ glittering.

¹⁷ glowed.

¹⁸ fire under a cauldron.

¹⁹ wasted away.

²⁰ licensed beggar.

²¹ important.

²² knows.

²³ country gentlemen.

²⁴ licensed to hear confessions.

²⁵ give.

²⁶ boast.

²⁷ stuffed.

²⁸ songs.

²⁹ a sort of fiddle.

¹ handsome.

² string.

³ a superior sort of fellow.

⁴ hunting.

⁵ somewhat strict.

⁶ same.

⁷ go.

⁸ cared.

⁹ mad.

¹⁰ work.

¹¹ hard rider.

¹² riding.

¹³ trimmed.

¹⁴ gray fur.

And everich hostiler and tappestere¹
 Bet² than a lazar³ or a beggestere;⁴
 For unto swich a worthy man as he
 Acorded nat, as by his facultee,⁵
 To have with seke lazars aqueyntaunce.²⁴⁵
 It is nat honest, it may nat avaunce⁶
 For to delen with no swich poraille,⁷
 But al with riche and sellers of vitaille.
 And over-al, ther as profit sholde aryse,
 Curteys he was, and lowly of servyse. ²⁵⁰
 Ther nas⁸ no man nowher so vertuous.
 He was the beste beggere in his hous;
 For thogh a widwe hadde noght a sho,
 So plesaunt was his *In principio*,⁹
 Yet wolde he have a ferthing, er he wente.
 His purchas¹⁰ was wel bettre than his
 rente.¹¹ ²⁵⁶
 And rage he coude as it were right a
 whelpe.
 In love-dayes ther coude he mochel helpe.
 For ther he was nat lyk a cloisterer,
 With a thredbar cope, as is a povre scoler,
 But he was lyk a maister or a pope. ²⁶¹
 Of double worsted was his semi-cope,
 That rounded as a belle out of the presse.
 Somwhat he lipped, for his wantownesse,
 To make his English swete up-on his
 tonge; ²⁶⁵
 And in his harping, whan that he had
 songe,
 His eyen twinkled in his heed aright,
 As doon the sterres in the frosty night.
 This worthy limitour was cleped Huberd.

A MARCHANT was ther with a forked
 berd, ²⁷⁰
 In mottelee, and hye on horse he sat,
 Up-on his heed a Flaundrish bever hat;
 His botes clasped faire and fetisly.
 His resons he spak ful solempnely,
 Souninge¹² alway thencrees of his winning.
 He wolde the see were kept¹³ for any
 thing ²⁷⁶
 Bitwixe Middleburgh and Orewelle.
 Wel coude he in eschaunge sheeldes¹⁴ selle.
 This worthy man ful wel his wit bisette;¹⁵
 Ther wiste no wight that he was in dette,
 So estatly was he of his governaunce,¹⁶ ²⁸¹
 With his bargaynes, and with his chev-
 isaunce.¹⁷

¹ barmaid. ² better. ³ leper. ⁴ beggar woman.

⁵ considering his ability. ⁶ profit. ⁷ poor people.

⁸ was not.

⁹ the beginning of the Latin Gospel of St. John.

¹⁰ proceeds of his begging. ¹¹ regular income.

¹² tending towards.

¹³ shields, French coins.

¹⁴ management.

¹⁵ guarded.

¹⁶ employed.

¹⁷ dealings.

For sothe he was a worthy man with-alle,
 But sooth to seyn, I noot¹⁸ how men him
 calle.

A CLERK ther was of Oxenford also, ²⁸⁵
 That un-to logik hadde longe y-go.
 As lene was his hors as is a rake,
 And he nas nat right fat, I undertake;
 But loked holwe, and ther-to soberly.
 Ful thredbar was his overest courtepy;¹⁹ ²⁹⁰
 For he had geten him yet no benefyce,
 Ne was so worldly for to have offyce.
 For him was lever have at his beddes heed
 Twenty bokes, clad in blak or reed,
 Of Aristotle and his philosophye, ²⁹⁵
 Than robes riche, or fithele,²⁰ or gay sau-
 trye.²¹

But al be that he was a philosophre,
 Yet hadde he but litel gold in cofre;
 But al that he mighte of his freendes
 hente,²²

On bokes and on lerninge he it spente, ³⁰⁰
 And bisily gan for the soules preye
 Of hem that yaf him wher-with to scoleye.
 Of studie took he most cure and most
 hede.

Noght o word spak he more than was nede,
 And that was seyde in forme and rever-
 ence,²³ ³⁰⁵
 And short and quik, and ful of hy sen-
 tence.²⁴

Souninge²⁵ in moral vertu was his speche,
 And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly
 teche.

A SERGEANT OF THE LAWE, war²⁶ and wys,
 That often hadde been at the parvyys,²⁷ ³¹⁰
 Ther was also, ful riche of excellence.
 Discreet he was, and of greet reverence:
 He semed swich, his wordes weren so wyse.
 Iustyce he was ful often in assyse,
 By patente, and by pleyn commissioun;³¹⁵
 For²⁸ his science, and for his heigh renoun,
 Of fees and robes hadde he many oon.
 So greet a purchasour²⁹ was nowher noon.
 Al was fee simple to him in effect,
 His purchasing mighte nat been infect. ³²⁰
 Nowher so bisy a man as he ther nas,
 And yet he semed bisier than he was.
 In termes hadde he caas³⁰ and domes³¹ alle,
 That from the tyme of king William were
 falle.

¹⁸ know not.

²² get.

²⁴ meaning.

²⁷ church-porch.

³⁰ cases.

¹⁹ outer coat. ²⁰ fiddle. ²¹ psaltery.

²³ "with propriety and modesty."

²⁵ conducting to.

²⁸ because of.

²⁹ conveyancer.

³¹ judgments.

Therto he coude endyte, and make a thing,
Ther coude no wight pinche¹ at his
wryting; 326

And every statut coude he pleyn by rote.
He rood but hoonly in a medlee² cote
Girt with a ceint³ of silk, with barres
smales;

Of his array telle I no lenger tale. 330

A FRANKLEYN was in his companye;
Whyt was his berd, as is the dayesye.
Of his complexioun he was sangwyn.⁴
Wel loved he by the morwe⁵ a sop⁶ in
wyn.⁶

To liven in delyt was ever his wone,⁷ 335
For he was Epicurus owne sone,
That heeld opinioun that pleyn delyt⁸
Was verrailly felicitee parfyt.

An housholdere, and that a greet, was he;
Seynt Iulian he was in his contree. 340

His breed, his ale, was alwey after oon;⁹
A bettre envyned¹⁰ man was no-wher noon.
With-oute bake mete was never his hous,
Of fish and flesh, and that so plentevous,
It snewed in his hous of mete and drinke,
Of alle deyntees that men coude thinke.³⁴⁶
After the sondry sesons of the yeer,
So chaunged he his mete and his soper.
Ful many a fat partrich hadde he in
mewe,¹¹

And many a breem¹² and many a luce¹³ in
stewe.¹⁴ 350

Wo was his cook, but-if his sauce were
Poynaunt and sharp, and redy al his gere.
His table dormant¹⁵ in his halle alway
Stood redy covered al the longe day.

At sessionns ther was he lord and sire. 355
Ful ofte tyme he was knight of the shire.
An anlas¹⁶ and a gipser¹⁷ al of silk

Heng at his girdel, whyt as morne milk.
A shirreve hadde he been, and a countour;¹⁸
Was no-wher such a worthy vavasour.¹⁹ 360

An HABERDASSHER and a CARPENTER,
A WEBBE,²⁰ a DYERE, and a TAPICER,²¹
Were with us eek, clothed in o²² liverie,
Of a solempne and greet fraternitee.

Ful fresh and newe hir gere apyked²³ was;
Hir knyves were y-chaped²⁴ noght with
bras, 366

¹ find fault with.

² of mixed colors.

³ girdle.

⁴ ruddy.

⁵ in the morning.

⁶ wine with bread in it.

⁷ custom.

⁸ joy.

⁹ of one quality.

¹⁰ stored with wine.

¹¹ coop.

¹² a sort of fish.

¹³ pike.

¹⁴ fish-pond.

¹⁵ permanent side table.

¹⁶ short dagger.

¹⁷ purse.

¹⁸ auditor.

¹⁹ landed gentleman.

²⁰ weaver.

²¹ upholsterer.

²² one.

²³ trimmed.

²⁴ capped.

But al with silver, wroght ful clene and
weel,

Hir girdles and hir pouches every-deel.

Wel semed ech of hem a fair burgeys,
To sitten in a yeldhalle²⁵ on a deys. 370

Everich, for the wisdom that he can,
Was shaply for to been an alderman.

For catel²⁶ hadde they y-nogh and rente,
And eek hir wyves wolde it wel assente;
And elles certain were they to blame. 375
It is ful fair to been y-clept "*ma dame*",
And goon to vigilyes al bifore,
And have a mantel royallliche y-bore.

A Cook they hadde with hem for the
nones,²⁷

To boille the chiknes with the mary-bones,
And poudre-marchant tart,²⁸ and galin-
gale.²⁹ 381

Wel coude he knowe a draughte of London
ale.

He coude roste, and sethe,³⁰ and broille,
and frye,

Maken mortreux,³¹ and wel bake a pye.

But greet harm was it, as it thoughte
me, 385

That on his shine a mormal³² hadde he;

For blankmanger,³³ that made he with the
beste.

A SHIPMAN was ther, woning fer by
weste:

For aught I woot, he was of Dertemouthe.
He rood up-on a rouncy,³⁴ as he couthe,³⁵
In a gowne of falding³⁶ to the knee. 391

A daggere hanging on a laas³⁷ hadde he
Aboute his nekke under his arm adoun.

The hote somer had maad his hewe al
broun;

And, certainly, he was a good felawe. 395

Ful many a draughte of wyn had he
y-drawe

From Burdeux-ward, whyl that the chap-
man³⁸ sleep.

Of nyce conscience took he no keep.³⁹

If that he faught, and hadde the hyer
hond,

By water⁴⁰ he sente hem hoom⁴⁰ to every
lond. 400

But of his craft⁴¹ to rekene wel his tydes,
His stremes⁴² and his daungers him bisydes,

²⁵ guild-hall.

²⁶ property.

²⁷ for the occasion.

²⁸ a sharp sort of flavoring.

²⁹ sweet cyperus.

³⁰ boil.

³¹ pottages.

³² sore.

³³ a sort of chicken compote.

³⁴ hackney.

³⁵ as well as he could.

³⁶ coarse cloth.

³⁷ string.

³⁸ super-cargo.

³⁹ cared nothing at all.

⁴⁰ he made the losers "walk the plank."

⁴¹ skill.

⁴² currents.

His herberwe¹ and his mone,² his lode-
menage,³

Ther nas noon swich from Hulle to
Cartage.

Hardy he was, and wys to undertake; 405
With many a tempest hadde his berd been
shake.

He knew wel alle the havenes, as they
were,

From Gootlond to the cape of Finistere,
And every cryke in Britayne and in
Spayne; 409

His barge y-cleped was the Maudelayne.

With us ther was a DOCTOUR OF PHISYK,
In al this world ne was ther noon him lyk
To speke of phisik and of surgerye;
For he was grounded in astronomye.

He kepte⁴ his pacient a ful greet del 415
In houres,⁴ by his magik naturel.

Wel coude he fortun⁵ the ascendent
Of his images for his pacient.

He knew the cause of everich maladye,
Were it of hoot or cold, or moiste, or
drye, 420

And where engendred, and of what hu-
mour;

He was a verrey parfit practisour.
The cause y-knowe, and of his harm the
rote,⁶

Anon he yaf the seke man his bote.⁷
Ful redy hadde he his apothecaries, 425

To sende him drogges, and his letuaries,⁸
For ech of hem made other for to winne;
Hir frendschipe nas nat newe to biginne.

Wel knew he the olde Esculapius,
And Deiscorides, and eek Rufus; 430

Old Ypocras, Haly, and Galien;
Serapion, Razis, and Avicen;

Averrois, Damascien, and Constantyn;
Bernard, and Gatesden, and Gilbertyn.

Of his diete mesurable⁹ was he, 435
For it was of no superfluitee,

But of greet norissing and digestible.
His studie was but litel on the Bible.

In sangwin¹⁰ and in pers¹¹ he clad was al,
Lyned with taffata and with sendal,¹² 440

And yet he was but esy of dispence;¹³
He kepte that he wan in pestilence.

For gold in phisik is a cordial,
Therefore he lovede gold in special.

A good Wyf was ther of bisyde BATHE,
But she was som-del deaf, and that was
scathe.¹⁴ 446

Of clooth-making she hadde swiche an
haunt,¹⁵

She passed hem of Ypres and of Gaunt.

In al the parisshe wyf ne was ther noon
That to the offring bifore hir sholde goon;

And if ther dide, certeyn, so wrooth was
she, 451

That she was out of alle charitee.

Hir coverchiefs¹⁶ ful fyne were of ground;¹⁷

I dorste swere they weyeden ten pound

That on a Sunday were upon hir heed. 455

Hir hos¹⁸en weren of fyn scarlet reed,

Ful streite y-teyd, and shoes ful moiste¹⁸
and newe.

Bold was hir face, and fair, and reed of
hewe.

She was a worthy womman al hir lyve;
Housbondes at chirche-dore she hadde

fyve, 460

Withouten other companye in youthe;

But therof nedeth nat to speke as nouthe.¹⁹

And thryes hadde she been at Ierusalem;

She hadde passed many a straunge stream;

At Rome she hadde been, and at Boloigne;

In Galice at seint Iame, and at Coloigne.

She coude muche of wandring by the
weye. 467

Gat-tothed²⁰ was she, soothly for to seye.

Up-on an amblere esily she sat,

Y-wimpled²¹ wel, and on hir heed an hat 470

As brood as is a bokeler or a targe;

A foot-mantel²² aboute hir hipes large,

And on hir feet a paire of spores sharpe.

In felaweschip wel coude she laughe and
carpe.²³ 474

Of remedies of love she knew per-chaunce,
For she coude of that art the olde daunce.

A good man was ther of religioun,

And was a povre PERSOUN²⁴ of a toun;

But riche he was of holy thought and werk.

He was also a lerned man, a clerk, 480

That Cristes gospel trewely wolde preche;

Hir parisshe devoutly wolde he teche.

Benigne he was, and wonder diligent,

And in adversitee ful pacient; 484

And swich he was y-preved²⁵ ofte sythes.²⁶

Ful looth were him to cursen for his thythes,

¹ harbor. ² position of the moon. ³ pilotage.

⁴ watched for his patient's favorable star.

⁵ On the five following lines consult the notes.

⁶ root, origin. ⁷ remedy. ⁸ remedies. ⁹ temperate.

¹⁰ red cloth. ¹¹ blue cloth. ¹² thin silk. ¹³ expenditure.

¹⁴ a pity. ¹⁵ skill. ¹⁶ head-dresses. ¹⁷ texture.

¹⁸ suppl. ¹⁹ at present. ²⁰ with teeth far apart.

²¹ her head well covered with a wimple.

²² cloth to protect the skirt. ²³ talk.

²⁴ parish priest. ²⁵ proved. ²⁶ many a time.

But rather wolde he yeven, out of doute,
Un-to his povre parisshe aboute
Of his offring, and eek of his substaunce.
He coude in litel thing han suffisaunce. 490
Wyð was his parisshe, and houses fer
a-sonder,

But he ne lafte¹ nat for reyn ne thonder,
In siknes nor in meschief to visyte
The ferreste in his parisshe, muche² and
lyte,³

Up-on his feet, and in his hand a staf. 495
This noble ensample to his sheep he yaf,
That first he wroghte, and afterward he
taughte;

Out of the gospel he tho wordes caughte;
And this figure he added eek ther-to,
That if gold ruste, what shal iren do? 500
For if a preest be foul, on whom we truste,
No wonder is a lewed⁴ man to ruste;
And shame it is, if a preest take keep,⁵
A [spotted] shepherde and a clene sheep.
Wel oghte a preest ensample for to yive, 505
By his clenness, how that his sheep shold
live.

He sette nat his benefice to hyre,
And leet his sheep encombred in the
myre,

And ran to London, un-to sēynt Poules,
To seken him a chaunterie for soules, 510
Or with a bretherhed to been withholde;⁶
But dwelte at hoom, and kepte wel his
folde,

So that the wolf ne made it nat miscarie;
He was a shepherde and no mercenarie.
And though he holy were, and vertuous, 515
He was to sinful man nat despitous,⁷

Ne of his speche daungerous⁸ ne digne,⁹
But in his teching discreet and benigne.

To drawen folk to heven by fairnesse
By good ensample, this was his bisnesse:
But it were any persone obstinat, 521
What so he were, of heigh or lowe estat,
Him wolde he snibben¹⁰ sharply for the
nones.

A bettre preest I trowe that nowher noon
is.

He wayted after no pompe and reverence,
Ne maked him a spyced¹¹ conscience, 526
But Cristes lore, and his apostles twelve,
He taughte, and first he folwed it him-
selve.

¹ ceased not.⁴ ignorant.⁷ merciless.¹⁰ reprove.² high.⁵ pay attention to it.⁸ disdainful.¹¹ over-scrupulous.³ low.⁶ confined.⁹ scornful.

With him ther was a PLOWMAN, was his
brother,
That hadde y-lad¹² of dong ful many a
fother;¹³ 530

A trewe swinkere¹⁴ and a good was he,
Livinge in pees and parfit charitee.

God loved he best with al his hole herte
At alle tymes, thogh him gamed¹⁵ or
smerte,¹⁶

And thanne his neighebour right as him-
selve. 535

He wolde thresshe, and ther-to dyke¹⁷ and
delve,

For Cristes sake, for every povre wight,
Withouten hyre, if it lay in his might.

His tythes payed he ful faire and wel,
Bothe of his propre swink¹⁸ and his catel. 540

In a tabard²⁰ he rood upon a mere. 541

Ther was also a Reve²¹ and a Millere,
A Somnour²² and a Pardoner also,
A Maunciple,²³ and my-self; ther were
namo.

The MILLER was a stout carl, for the
nones, 545

Ful big he was of braun, and eek of bones;
That proved wel, for over-al ther he cam,
At wrastling he wolde have alwey the
ram. 546

He was short-sholdred, brood, a thikke
knarre,²⁵

Ther nas no dore that he nolde²⁶ heve of
harre,²⁶ 550

Or breke it, at a renning, with his heed.
His berd as any sowe or fox was reed,
And ther-to brood, as though it were a
spade.

Up-on the cop²⁷ right of his nose he hade
A werte, and ther-on stood a tuft of heres,

Reed as the bristles of a sowes eres; 556
His nose-thirles²⁸ blake were and wyde.

A swerd and bokeler bar he by his syde;
His mouth as greet was as a greet forneys.

He was a Ianglere²⁹ and a goliardeys, 560
And that was most of sinne and harlotryes.

Wel coude he stelen corn, and tollen
thryes;

And yet he hadde a thombe of gold,
pardee.

A whyt cote and a blew hood wered he.

¹² carried in a cart.¹⁵ it pleased.¹⁸ labor.²¹ bailiff.²³ steward of a college.²⁵ a sturdy fellow.²⁷ top.¹³ load.¹⁶ pained.¹⁹ property.²² summoner for an ecclesiastical court.²⁴ win the prize, a ram.²⁶ could not lift off its hinges.²⁸ nostrils.²⁹ talker.¹⁴ laborer.¹⁷ dig.²⁰ loose coat.²³ could not lift off its hinges.²⁵ talker.²⁷ buffoon.

A baggepype wel coude he blowe and
sowne, 565
And therwithal he broghte us out of
towne.

A gentil MAUNCIPLE was ther of a temple,

Of which achatours¹ mighte take exemple
For to be wyse in bying of vitaille.

For whether that he payde, or took by
taille,² 570

Algate³ he wayted⁴ so in his achat,⁵
That he was ay biforn and in good stat.

Now is nat that of God a ful fair grace,
That swich a lewed⁶ mannes wit shal pace

The wisdom of an heep of lerned men? 575
Of maistres hadde he mo than thryes ten,

That were of lawe expert and curious;
Of which ther were a doseyn in that hous,

Worthy to been stiwardes of rente and
lond

Of any lord that is in Engeland, 580
To make him live by his propre good,

In honour dettelees,⁷ but he were wood,⁸
Or live as scarsly as him list desire;

And able for to helpen al a shire
In any cas that mighte falle or happe; 585

And yit this maunciple sette⁹ hir aller
cappe.⁹

The REVE was a sclendre colerik man,
His berd was shave as ny as ever he
can.

His heer was by his eres round y-shorn.
His top was dokked lyk a preest biforn. 590

Ful longe were his legges, and ful lene,
Y-lyk a staf, ther was no calf y-sene.

Wel coude he kepe a gerner¹⁰ and a binne;
Ther was noon auditour coude on him
winne.

Wel wiste he, by the droghte, and by the
reyn, 595

The yelding of his seed, and of his greyn.
His lordes sheep, his neet,¹¹ his dayerye,

His swyn, his hors, his stoor,¹² and his
pultrye,

Was hoolly in this reves governing,
And by his covenaut yaf the rekening, 600

Sin that his lord was twenty yeer of age;
Ther coude no man bringe him in arrerage.

Ther nas baillif, ne herde, ne other hyne,¹³
That he ne knew his sleighte¹⁴ and his

covyne;¹⁵ 604

They were adrad of him, as of the deeth.
His woning¹⁶ was ful fair up-on an heeth,
With grene treës shadwed was his place.
He coude better than his lord purchase.
Ful riche he was astored prively,
His lord wel coude he plesen subtilly, 610
To yeve and lene¹⁷ him of his owne good,
And have a thank, and yet a cote and
hood.

In youthe he lerned hadde a good mister,¹⁸
He was a wel good wrighte, a carpenter.

This reve sat up-on a ful good stot,¹⁹ 615
That was al pomely²⁰ grey, and highte Scot.

A long surcote of pers²¹ up-on he hade,
And by his syde he bar a rusty blade.

Of Northfolk was this reve, of which I telle,
Bisyde a toun men clepen Baldeswelle. 620

Tukked²² he was, as is a frere, aboute,
And evere he rood the hindreste of our
route.

A SOMNOUR was ther with us in that
place,

That hadde a fyr-reed cherubinnes face,

* * * * *
Wel loved he garleek, oynons, and eek
lekes,

And for to drynken strong wyn, reed as
blood. 635

Thanne wolde he speke, and crye as he
were wood.

And whan that he wel dronken hadde the
wyn,

Than wolde he speke no word but Latyn.
A fewe termes hadde he, two or three,

That he had lerned out of som decree; 640
No wonder is, he herde it al the day;

And eek ye knowen wel, how that a Iay
Can clepen "Watte,"²³ as well as can the
pope.

But who-so coude in other thing him
grope,²⁴

Thanne hadde he spent al his philosophye;
Ay "*Questio quid iuris*" wolde he crye. 646

He was a gentil harlot²⁵ and a kynde;
A better felawe sholde men noght fynde.

He wolde suffre for a quart of wyn
A good felawe to have his [wikked sin] 650

A twelf-month, and excuse him atte fulle:
And prively a finch eek coude he pulle.

And if he fond owher²⁶ a good felawe,
He wolde techen him to have non awe,

¹ caterers. ² on credit. ³ always. ⁴ took precautions.

⁵ buying. ⁶ ignorant. ⁷ free from debt.

⁸ mad. ⁹ over-reached them all. ¹⁰ granary.

¹¹ cattle. ¹² stock. ¹³ servant. ¹⁴ trickery. ¹⁵ deceit.

¹⁶ house. ¹⁷ lend.

¹⁸ trade. ¹⁹ horse.

²⁰ dappled. ²¹ blue cloth. ²² tucked.

²³ jay can cry "Wat." ²⁴ "test him in any other point."

²⁵ rogue. ²⁶ anywhere.

In swich cas, of the erchedeknes curs, 655
 But-if¹ a mannes soule were in his purs;
 For in his purs he sholde y-punissed be.
 "Purs is the erchedeknes helle," seyde he.
 But wel I woot he lyed right in dede;
 Of cursing oghte ech gilty man him drede—
 For curs wol slee, right as assoilling²
 saveth— 661

And also war him³ of a *significavit*.
 In daunger⁴ hadde he at his owne gyse⁵
 The yonge girles⁶ of the diocyse,
 And knew hir counseil, and was al hir
 reed.⁷ 665

A gerland hadde he set up-on his heed,
 As greet as it were for an ale-stake;
 A bokeler hadde he maad him of a cake.

With him ther rood a gentil PARDONER
 Of Rouncival, his freend and his compeer,
 That streight was comen fro the court of
 Rome. 671
 Ful loude he song, "Com hider, love, to
 me."

This somnour bar to him a stif burdoun,
 Was never trompe of half so greet a soun.
 This pardoner hadde heer as yelow as wex,
 But smothe it heng, as doth a strike⁸ of
 flex; 676

By ounces⁹ henge his lokkes that he hadde,
 And ther-with he his shuldres over-
 spradde;

But thinne it lay, by colpons¹⁰ oon and
 oon;

But hood, for Iolitee, ne wered he noon, 680
 For it was trussed up in his walet.

Him thoughte,¹¹ he rood al of the newe
 Iet,¹²

Dischevele, save his cappe, he rood al bare.
 Swiche glaringe eyen hadde he as an hare.
 A vernicle hadde he sowed on his cappe. 685
 His walet lay biforn him in his lappe,
 Bret-ful¹³ of pardoun come from Rome al
 hoot.

A boys he hadde as smal as hath a goot.
 No berd hadde he, ne never sholde have,
 As smothe it was as it were late
 y-shave; 690

* * * * *

But of his craft, fro Berwik into Ware,
 Ne was ther swich another pardoner.
 For in his male¹⁴ he hadde a pilwe-beer,¹⁵

¹ unless.

² absolution.

³ let him beware of.

⁴ in his jurisdiction.

⁵ way.

⁶ people.

⁷ adviser.

⁸ hank of flax.

⁹ small portions.

¹⁰ shreds.

¹¹ it seemed to him.

¹² fashion.

¹³ brim-full.

¹⁴ wallet.

¹⁵ pillow-case.

Which that, he seyde, was our lady veyl:¹⁶
 He seyde, he hadde a gobet¹⁷ of the seyl 696
 That seynt Peter hadde, whan that he
 wente

Up-on the see, til Iesu Crist him hente.¹⁸
 He hadde a croys of latoun,¹⁹ ful of stones,
 And in a glas he hadde pigges bones. 700
 But with these reliques, whan that he fond
 A povre person dwelling up-on lond,²⁰
 Up-on a day he gat him more moneye
 Than that the person got in monthes
 tweye.

And thus with feyned flaterye and Iapes,²¹
 He made the person and the peple his apes.
 But trewely to tellen, atte laste, 707
 He was in chirche a noble ecclesiaste.
 Wel coude he rede a lessoun or a storie,
 But alderbest²² he song an offertorie; 710
 For wel he wiste, whan that song was
 songe,

He moste preche, and wel affyle²³ his tonge,
 To winne silver, as he ful wel coude;
 Therefore he song so meriely and loude.

Now have I told you shortly, in a clause,
 Thestat,²⁴ tharray, the nombre, and eek
 the cause 716

Why that assembled was this companye
 In Southwerk, at this gentil hostelrye,
 That highte the Tabard, faste by the
 Belle.

But now is tyme to yow for to telle 720
 How that we baren us that ilke night,
 Whan we were in that hostelrye alight.
 And after wol I telle of our viage,
 And al the remenaunt of our pilgrimage.
 But first I pray yow, of your curteisye, 725
 That ye narette²⁵ it nat my vileinye,²⁵
 Thogh that I pleylnly speke in this matere,
 To telle yow hir wordes and hir chere,²⁶
 Ne thogh I speke hir wordes properly.²⁷
 For this ye knowen al-so wel as I, 730

Who-so shal telle a tale after a man,
 He moot reherce, as ny as ever he can,
 Everich a²⁸ word, if it be in his charge,
 Al speke he²⁹ never so rudeliche and large;³⁰
 Or elles he moot telle his tale untrewre, 735
 Or feyne thing, or fynde wordes newe.
 He may nat spare, al-thogh he were his
 brother;

He moot as wel seye o word as another.

¹⁶ the Virgin Mary's veil.

¹⁷ piece.

¹⁸ took.

¹⁹ brass.

²⁰ in the country.

²¹ tricks.

²² best of all.

²³ sharpen.

²⁴ the estate.

²⁵ "ascribe it not to my ill breeding."

²⁶ behavior.

²⁷ literally.

²⁸ every.

²⁹ although he speak.

³⁰ freely.

Crist spak him-self ful brode in holy writ,
And wel ye woot, no vileinye is it. 740
Eek Plato seith, who-so that can him rede,
The wordes mote be cosin to the dede.

Also I prey yow to foryeve it me,
Al have I nat set folk in hir degree¹
Here in this tale, as that they sholde
stonde; 745

My wit is short, ye may wel understonde.
Greet chere made our hoste us everichon,
And to the soper sette he us anon;
And served us with vitaille at the beste.
Strong was the wyn, and wel to drinke us
leste.² 750

A semely man our hoste was with-alle
For to han been a marshal in an halle;
A large man he was with eyen stepe,³
A fairer burgeys is ther noon in Chepe:
Bold of his speche, and wys, and wel
y-taught, 755.

And of manhod him lakkede right naught.
Eek therto he was right a mery man,
And after soper pleyen⁴ he bigan,
And spak of mirthe amonges othere
thinges, 759

Whan that we hadde maad our rekeninges;
And seyde thus: "Now, lordinges, trewely
Ye been to me right welcome hertely:
For by my trouthe, if that I shal nat lye,
I ne saugh⁵ this yeer so mery a companye
At ones⁶ in this herberwe⁷ as is now. 765
Fayn wolde I doon yow mirthe, wiste I
how.

And of a mirthe, I am right now bithoght,
To doon yow ese,⁸ and it shal coste noght.

Ye goon to Caunterbury; God yow
spede,

The blisful martir quyte yow your mede.⁹
And wel I woot, as ye goon by the weye, 771
Ye shapen yow to talen¹⁰ and to pleye;
For trewely, confort ne mirthe is noon
To ryde by the weye dounb as a stoon;
And therfore wol I maken yow disport, 775
As I seyde erst, and doon yow som confort.
And if yow lyketh alle, by oon assent,
Now for to stonden at my Iugement,
And for to werken as I shal yow seye,
To-morwe, whan ye ryden by the weye, 780
Now, by my fader soule, that is deed,
But ye be merye, I wol yeve yow myn
heed.

¹ proper rank.² it pleased us.³ glittering.⁴ make merry.⁵ have not seen.⁶ one time.⁷ inn.⁸ entertain you.⁹ reward you duly.¹⁰ plan to talk.

Hold up your hond, withoute more speche."

Our counseil was nat longe for to seche;
Us thoughte it was noght worth to make it
wys,¹¹ 785

And graunted him with-outen more avys,¹²
And bad him seye his verdit, as him leste.

"Lordinges," quod he, "now herkneth
for the beste;

But tak it not, I prey yow, in desdeyn;
This is the poynt, to speken short and
pleyn, 790

That ech of yow, to shorte with your
weye,¹³

In this viage, shal telle tales tweye,
To Caunterbury-ward, I mene it so,
And hom-ward he shal tellen othere two,
Of adventures that whylom¹⁴ han bifalle. 795
And which of yow that bereth him best of
alle,

That is to seyn, that telleth in this cas
Tales of best sentence¹⁵ and most solas,¹⁶
Shal han a soper at our aller cost¹⁷
Here in this place, sitting by this post, 800
Whan that we come agayn fro Caunter-
bury.

And for to make yow the more mery,
I wol my-selven gladly with yow ryde,
Right at myn owne cost, and be your gyde.
And who-so wol my Iugement withseye 805
Shal paye al that we spenden by the weye.
And if ye vouche-sauf that it be so,
Tel me anon, with-outen wordes mo,
And I wol erly shape me¹⁸ therfore."

This thing was graunted, and our othes
swore 810

With ful glad herte, and preyden him also
That he wold vouche-sauf for to do so,
And that he wolde been our governour,
And of our tales Iuge and reportour,
And sette a soper at a certeyn prys; 815
And we wold reuled been at his devys,¹⁹
In heigh and lowe; and thus, by oon assent,
We been accorded to his Iugement.
And ther-up-on the wyn was fet²⁰ anon;
We dronken, and to reste wente echon, 820
With-outen any lenger taryinge.

A-morwe, whan that day bigan to
springe,

Up roos our host, and was our aller cok,²¹
And gadrede us togidre, alle in a flok,

¹¹ deliberate about it.¹² consideration.¹³ make the journey short.¹⁴ formerly.¹⁵ meaning.¹⁶ amusement.¹⁷ the expense of us all.¹⁸ get myself ready.¹⁹ according to his decision.²⁰ brought.²¹ cock of us all.

And forth we riden, a litel more than
pas,¹ 825

Un-to the watering of seint Thomas.

And there our host bigan his hors areste,²
And seyde; "Lordinges, herkneth if yow
leste.

Ye woot your forward,³ and I it yow re-
corde.⁴

If even-song and morwe-song acorde, 830
Lat se now who shal telle the firste tale.

As ever mote I drinke wyn or ale,
Who-so be rebel to my Iugement
Shal paye for al that by the weye is
spent.

Now draweth cut, er that we ferrer⁵
twinne,⁶ 835

He which that hath the shortest shal be-
ginne.

Sire knight," quod he, "my maister and
my lord,

Now draweth cut, for that is myn acord.⁷
Cometh neer," quod he, "my lady prior-
esse;

And ye, sir clerk, lat be your shamfast-
nesse,⁸ 840

Ne studieth noght; ley hond to, every
man."

Anon to drawen every wight bigan,
And shortly for to tellen, as it was,
Were it by aventure,⁹ or sort,¹⁰ or cas,¹¹
The sothe¹² is this, the cut fil to the knight,
Of which ful blythe and glad was every
wight; 846

And telle he moste his tale, as was resoun,
By forward and by composicioun,¹³
As ye han herd; what nedeth wordes
mo?

And whan this goode man saugh it was so,
As he that wys was and obedient 851

To kepe his forward by his free assent,
He seyde: "Sin¹⁴ I shal beginne the
game,

What, welcome be the cut, a¹⁵ Goddes
name!

Now lat us ryde, and herkneth what I
seye." 855

And with that word we riden forth our
weye;

And he bigan with right a mery chere¹⁶
His tale anon, and seyde in this manere.

THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE

*Here biginneth the Nonne Preestes Tale of
the Cok and Hen, Chauntecleer and
Pertelote.*

A povre widwe somdel stope¹⁷ in age,
Was whylom dwelling in a narwe cotage,
Bisyde a grove, stondyng in a dale.

This widwe, of which I telle yow my tale,
Sin thilke¹⁸ day that she was last a wyf, 5

In pacience ladde a ful simple lyf,
For litel was hir catel¹⁹ and hir rente;²⁰

By housbondrye, of such as God hir sente,
She fond²¹ hir-self, and eek hir doghtren
two.

Three large sowes hadde she, and namo, 10
Three kyn, and eek a sheep that highte
Malle.

Ful sooty was hir bour,²² and eek hir halle,
In which she eet ful many a splendre meel.

Of poynaunt sauce hir neded never a deel.
No deyntee morsel passed thurgh hir
throte; 15

Hir dyete was accordant to²³ hir cote.
Repleccioun²⁴ ne made hir never syk;

Attempree²⁵ dyete was al hir phisyk,
And exerceyse, and hertes suffisaunce.²⁶

The goute lette²⁷ hir no-thing for to
daunce, 20

Napoplexye²⁸ shente²⁹ nat hir heed;
No wyn ne drank she, neither whyt ne
reed;

Hir bord was served most with whyt and
blak,

Milk and broun breed, in which she fond
no lak,

Seynd³⁰ bacoun, and somtyme an ey³¹ or
tweye, 25

For she was as it were a maner deye.³²

A yerd she hadde, enclosed al aboute
With stikkes, and a drye dich with-oute,

In which she hadde a cok, hight Chaunte-
cleer,

In al the land of crowing nas³³ his peer. 30

His vois was merier than the mery orgon
On messe-dayes that in the chirche gon;

Wel siker³⁴ was his crowing in his logge,³⁵
Than is a klokke, or an abbey orlogge.³⁶

By nature knew he ech ascensioun 35
Of equinoxial in thilke toun;

¹ a little faster than a walk.

³ agreement.

⁶ farther.

⁸ modesty.

¹¹ chance.

¹⁴ since.

² stop.

⁴ remind you of it.

⁷ judgment.

¹⁰ destiny.

¹³ compact.

¹⁶ countenance.

¹⁷ advanced.

²¹ provided for.

²⁴ over-eating.

²⁷ hindered.

³⁰ broiled.

³³ was not.

¹⁸ that.

²² bed-chamber.

²⁵ a temperate.

²⁸ nor apoplexy.

³¹ egg.

³⁴ more certain.

¹⁹ chattels.

²³ in keeping with.

²⁶ contentment.

²⁹ injured.

³² sort of dairywoman.

³⁵ lodge.

²⁰ income.

²³ in keeping with.

²⁶ contentment.

²⁹ injured.

³² sort of dairywoman.

³⁵ clock.

For whan degrees fiftene were ascended,
Thanne crew he, that it mighte nat ben
amended.¹

His comb was redder than the fyn coral,
And batailed,² as it were a castel-wal. 40
His bile³ was blak, and as the leet⁴ it
shoon;

Lyk asur were his legges, and his toon;⁵
His nayles whytter than the lillie flour,
And lyk the burned gold was his colour.
This gentil cok hadde in his governaunce 45
Sevene hennes, for to doon al his plesaunce,
Whiche were his sustres and his para-

mours,
And wonder lyk to him, as of colours.
Of whiche the faireste hewed on hir
throthe

Was cleped⁶ faire damoysele Pertelote. 50
Curteys she was, discreet, and debonaire,
And compaignable, and bar himself so
faire,

Syn thilke day that she was seven night
old,

That trewely she hath the herte in hold⁷
Of Chauntecleer loken⁸ in every lith;⁹ 55
He loved hir so, that wel was him ther-
with.

But such a Ioye was it to here hem singe,
Whan that the brighte sonne gan to
springe,

In swete accord, "My lief is faren¹⁰ in
londe."

For thilke tyme, as I have understonde, 60
Bestes and briddes coude speke and singe.

And so bifel, that in a daweninge,¹¹
As Chauntecleer among his wyves alle
Sat on his perche, that was in the halle,
And next him sat this faire Pertelote, 65
This Chauntecleer gan gronen in his throthe,
As man that in his dreem is drecched¹²
sore.

And whan that Pertelote thus herde him
rore,

She was agast, and seyde, "O herte dere,
What eyleth yow, to grone in this manere?
Ye been a verray¹³ sleper, fy for shame!"¹⁴ 71
And he answerde and seyde thus, "ma-
dame,

I pray yow, that ye take it nat agrief:
By god, me mette¹⁴ I was in swich mes-
chief

Right now, that yet myn herte is sore
afright. 75

Now god," quod he, "my sweven¹⁵ rede¹⁶
aright,

And keep my body out of foul prisoun!
Me mette, how that I romed up and down
Withinne our yerde, wher as I saugh a
beste,

Was lyk an hound, and wolde han maad
areste 80

Upon my body, and wolde han had me
deed.

His colour was bitwixe yelwe and reed;
And tipped was his tail, and bothe his eres,
With blak, unlyk the remenant of his
heres;

His snowte smal, with glowinge eyen
tweye. 85

Yet of his look for fere almost I deye;
This caused me my groning, doutelees."
"Avoy!" quod she, "fy on yow, hert-
elees!

Allas!" quod she, "for, by that god above,
Now han ye lost myn herte and al my love;
I can nat love a coward, by my feith. 91

For certes, what so any womman seith,
We alle desyren, if it mighte be,
To han housbondes hardy, wyse, and free,¹⁷
And secree, and no nigard, ne no fool, 95

Ne him that is agast of every tool,¹⁸
Ne noon avauntour,¹⁹ by that god above!
How dorste ye seyn for shame unto your
love,

That any thing mighte make yow aferd?
Have ye no mannes herte, and han a berd?
Allas! and conne ye been agast of swevenes?
No-thing, god wot, but vanitee, in sweven
is. 102

Swevenes engendren of²⁰ replecciouns,
And ofte of fume,²¹ and of complecciouns,²²
Whan humours been to habundant in a
wight. 105

Certes this dreem, which ye han met to-
night,

Cometh of the grete superfluitee
Of youre rede²³ colera,²⁴ pardee,
Which causeth folk to dreden in here
dremes

Of arwes,²⁵ and of fyr with rede lemes,²⁶ 110
Of grete bestes, that they wol hem byte,
Of kontek,²⁷ and of whelpes grete and lyte;

¹ improved. ² indented.

⁵ toes. ⁶ named.

⁸ locked. ⁹ limb.

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¹⁰ gone.

¹⁴ I dreamed.

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Right as the humour of malencolye
 Causeth ful many a man, in sleep, to crye,
 For fere of blake beres,¹ or boles² blake,
 Or elles, blake develes wole hem take. 116
 Of othere humours coude I telle also,
 That werken many a man in sleep ful wo;
 But I wol passe as lightly as I can.

Lo Catoun, which that was so wys a
 man, 120
 Seyde he nat thus, ne do no fors of³
 dremes?

Now, sire," quod she, "whan we flee fro
 the bemes,

For Goddes love, as tak som laxatyf;
 Up peril of my soule,⁴ and of my lyf,
 I counseille yow the beste, I wol nat
 lye, 125

That both of colere, and of malencolye
 Ye purge yow; and for ye shul nat tarie,
 Though in this toun is noon apotecarie,
 I shal my-self to herbes techen yow,
 That shul ben for your hele,⁵ and for your
 prow;⁶ 130

And in our yerd tho herbes shal I finde,
 The whiche han of here propretee, by
 kinde,⁷

To purgen yow binethe, and eek above.
 Forget not this, for goddes owene love!
 Ye been ful colerik of compleccioun. 135
 Ware⁸ the sonne in his ascencioun
 Ne fynde yow nat repleet of humours
 hote;

And if it do, I dar wel leye a grote,
 That ye shul have a fevere terciane,
 Or an agu, that may be youre bane.⁹ 140

A day or two ye shul have digestyves
 Of wormes, er ye take your laxatyves,
 Of lauriol, centaure, and fumetere,
 Or elles of ellebor, that groweth there,
 Of catapuce, or of gaytres beryis,¹⁰ 145
 Of erbe yve,¹¹ growing in our yerd, that
 mery is;

Pekke hem up right as they growe, and
 ete hem in.

Be mery, housbond, for your fader kin!
 Dredeth no dreem; I can say yow namore."

"Madame," quod he, "*graunt mercy* of
 your lore. 150

But natheles, as touching daun¹² Catoun,
 That hath of wisdom such a greet renoun,

Though that he bad no dremes for to
 drede,

By god, men may in olde bokes rede
 Of many a man, more of auctoritee 155

Than ever Catoun was, so moot I thee,¹³
 That al the revers seyn of his sentence,

And han wel founden by experience,
 That dremes ben significaciouns,

As wel of loye as tribulaciouns 160
 That folk enduren in this lyf present.

Ther nedeth make of this noon argument;
 The verray preve¹⁴ sheweth it in dede.

Oon of the grettest auctours that men
 rede

Seith thus, that whylom two felawes¹⁵
 wente 165

On pilgrimage, in a full good intente;
 And happed so, they come into a toun,

Wher as ther was swich congregacioun
 Of peple, and eek so streit¹⁶ of herber-
 gage,¹⁷ 169

That they ne founde as muche as o¹⁸ cotage,
 In which they bothe mighte y-logged be.

Wherfor thay mosten, of necessitee,
 As for that night, departen compaignye;

And ech of hem goth to his hostelrye,
 And took his logging as it wolde falle. 175

That oon of hem was logged in a stalle,
 Fer in a yerd, with oxen of the plough;

That other man was logged wel y-nough,
 As was his aventure,¹⁹ or his fortune,

That us governeth alle as in commune.²⁰ 180
 And so bifel, that, long er it were day,

This man mette²¹ in his bed, ther-as he
 lay,

How that his felawe gan up-on him calle,
 And seyde, 'allas! for in an oxes stalle

This night I shal be mordred ther²² I lye.
 Now help me, dere brother, er I dye; 186

In alle haste com to me,' he sayde.
 This man out of his sleep for fere abrayde;²³

But whan that he was wakned of his sleep,
 He turned him, and took of this no keep;²⁴

Him thoughte his dreem nas but a vanitee.
 Thus twyes in his sleping dremed he. 192

And atte thridde tyme yet his felawe
 Cam, as him thoughte, and seide 'I am now

slawe;²⁵
 Bihold my bloody woundes, depe and
 wyde! 195

Arys up erly in the morwe-tyde,

¹ bears. ² bulls. ³ pay no attention to.

⁴ by my soul. ⁵ healing. ⁶ profit.

⁷ nature. ⁸ take care lest. ⁹ death.

¹⁰ berries of the gay-tree. ¹¹ ground ivy.

¹² dominus, lord.

¹³ may I prosper. ¹⁴ proof. ¹⁵ companions. ¹⁶ little.

¹⁷ lodging. ¹⁸ one. ¹⁹ chance.

²⁰ commonly. ²¹ dreamed. ²² where.

²³ started. ²⁴ thought, care. ²⁵ slain.

For whan degrees fiftene were ascended,
Thanne crew he, that it mighte nat ben
amended.¹

His comb was redder than the fyn coral,
And batailed,² as it were a castel-wal. 40
His bile³ was blak, and as the Iet⁴ it
shoon;

Lyk asur were his legges, and his toon;⁵
His nayles whytter than the lillie flour,
And lyk the burned gold was his colour.
This gentil cok hadde in his governaunce 45
Sevene hennes, for to doon al his plesaunce,
Whiche were his sustres and his para-

mours,
And wonder lyk to him, as of colours.
Of whiche the faireste hewed on hir
throthe

Was cleped⁶ faire damoysele Pertelote. 50
Curteys she was, discreet, and debonaire,
And compaignable, and bar himself so
faire,

Syn thilke day that she was seven night
old,

That trewely she hath the herte in hold⁷
Of Chauntecleer loken⁸ in every lith;⁹ 55
He loved hir so, that wel was him ther-
with.

But such a Ioye was it to here hem singe,
Whan that the brighte sonne gan to
springe,

In swete accord, "My lief is faren¹⁰ in
londe."

For thilke tyme, as I have understonde, 60
Bestes and briddes coude speke and singe.

And so bifel, that in a daweninge,¹¹
As Chauntecleer among his wyves alle
Sat on his perche, that was in the halle,
And next him sat this faire Pertelote, 65
This Chauntecleer gan gronen in his throthe,
As man that in his dreem is drecched¹²
sore.

And whan that Pertelote thus herde him
rore,

She was agast, and seyde, "O herte dere,
What eyleth yow, to grone in this manere?
Ye been a verray¹³ sleper, fy for shame!"¹⁴ 71
And he answerde and seyde thus, "ma-
dame,

I pray yow, that ye take it nat agrief:
By god, me mette¹⁴ I was in swich mes-
chief

Right now, that yet myn herte is sore
airight. 75

Now god," quod he, "my sweven¹⁵ rede¹⁶
airight,

And keep my body out of foul prisoun!
Me mette, how that I romed up and down
Withinne our yerde, wher as I saugh a
beste,

Was lyk an hound, and wolde han maad
areste 80

Upon my body, and wolde han had me
deed.

His colour was bitwixe yelwe and reed;
And tipped was his tail, and bothe his eres,
With blak, unlyk the remenant of his
heres;

His snowte smal, with glowinge eyen
tweye. 85

Yet of his look for fere almost I deye;
This caused me my groning, doutelees."

"Avoy!" quod she, "fy on yow, hert-
elees!

Allas!" quod she, "for, by that god above,
Now han ye lost myn herte and al my love;
I can nat love a coward, by my feith. 91

For certes, what so any womman seith,
We alle desyren, if it mighte be,
To han housbondes hardy, wyse, and free,¹⁷
And secree, and no nigard, ne no fool, 95

Ne him that is agast of every tool,¹⁸
Ne noon avauntour,¹⁹ by that god above!
How dorste ye seyn for shame unto your
love,

That any thing mighte make yow aferd?
Have ye no mannes herte, and han a berd?
Allas! and conne ye been agast of swevenis?
No-thing, god wot, but vanitee, in sweven
is. 102

Swevenes engendren of²⁰ replecciouns,
And ofte of fume,²¹ and of complecciouns,²²
Whan humours been to habundant in a
wight. 105

Certes this dreem, which ye han met to-
night,

Cometh of the grete superfluitee
Of youre rede²³ colera,²⁴ pardee,
Which causeth folk to dreden in here
dremes

Of arwes,²⁵ and of fyr with rede lemes,²⁶ 110
Of grete bestes, that they wol hem byte,
Of kontek,²⁷ and of whelpes grete and lyte;

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Leve I this Chauntecleer in his pasture;³⁶⁵
And after wol I telle his aventure.

Whan that the month in which the
world bigan,
That highte March, whan god first maked
man,

Was complet, and y-passed were also,
Sin March bigan, thritty dayes and two,
Bifel that Chauntecleer, in al his pryde,³⁷¹
His seven wyves walking by his syde,
Caste up his eyen to the brighte sonne,
That in the signe of Taurus hadde y-ronne
Twenty degrees and oon, and somwhat
more;

And knew by kynde,¹ and by noon other
lore,²

That it was pryme,³ and crew with blisful
stevens.⁴

"The sonne," he sayde, "is clomben up on
hevene

Fourty degrees and oon, and more, y-wis.⁵
Madame Pertelote, my worldes blis, ³⁸⁰
Herkeneth thise blisful briddes how they
singe,

And see the fresshe floures how they
springe;

Ful is myn hert of revel and solas."
But sodeinly him fil a sorweful cas;⁶
For ever the latter ende of Ioye is wo. ³⁸⁵

God woot that worldly Ioye is sone ago;⁷
And if a rethor⁸ coude faire endyte,
He in a chronique sauflly⁹ mighte it write,
As for a sovereyn notabilitee.¹⁰

Now every wys man, lat him herkne me;
This storie is al-so trewe, I undertake, ³⁹¹
As is the book of Launcelot de Lake,
That women holde in ful gret reverence.
Now wol I torne agayn to my sentence.

A col-fox,¹¹ ful of sly iniquitee, ³⁹⁵
That in the grove hadde woned¹² yeres
three,

By heigh imaginacioun forn-cast,¹³
The same night thurgh-out the hegges¹⁴
brast¹⁵

Into the yerd, ther Chauntecleer the faire
Was wont, and eek his wyves, to repaire;
And in a bed of wortes¹⁶ stille he lay, ⁴⁰¹
Til it was passed undern¹⁷ of the day,
Wayting his tyme on Chauntecleer to falle,
As gladly doon thise homicydes alle,

That in awayt ligen¹⁸ to mordre men. ⁴⁰⁵
O false mordre, lurking in thy den!

O newe Scariot, newe Genilon!
False dissimilour,¹⁹ O Greek Sinon,
That broghtest Troye al outrely²⁰ to sorwe!
O Chauntecleer, acursed be that morwe,⁴¹⁰
That thou into that yerd flough fro the
bemes!

Thou were ful wel y-warned by thy dremes,
That thilke day was perilous to thee.

But what that god forwot²¹ mot nedes²²
be,

After the opinioun of certeyn clerkis. ⁴¹⁵
Witnesse on him²³ that any perfit clerk is,
That in scole is gret altercacioun
In this matere, and greet disputisoun,
And hath ben of an hundred thousand
men.

But I ne can not bulte it to the bren,²⁴ ⁴²⁰
As can the holy doctour Augustyn,

Or Boece, or the bishop Bradwardyn,
Whether that goddes worthy forwiting
Streyneth²⁵ me nedely²⁶ for to doon a
thing,

(Nedely clepe I simple necessitee); ⁴²⁵

Or elles, if free choys be graunted me
To do that same thing, or do it noight,
Though god forwot it, er that it was
wroght;

Or if his witing streyneth nevere a del
But by necessitee condicionel. ⁴³⁰

I wol not han to do of swich matere;
My tale is of a cok, as ye may here,
That took his counseil of his wyf, with
sorwe,

To walken in the yerd upon that morwe
That he had met the dreem, that I yow
tolde. ⁴³⁵

Wommennes counseils been ful ofte
colde;²⁷

Wommannes counsel broghte us first to
wo,

And made Adam fro paradys to go,
Ther as he was ful mery, and wel at ese.

But for I noot, to whom it mighte displese,
If I counseil of wommen wolde blame, ⁴⁴¹
Passe over, for I seyde it in my game.²⁸

Rede auctours,²⁹ wher they trete of swich
matere,

And what thay seyn of wommen ye may
here.

¹ nature.

² teaching.

³ nine o'clock A. M.

⁴ voice.

⁵ certainly.

⁶ a sad accident befell him.

⁷ gone.

⁸ rhetorician.

⁹ safely.

¹⁰ wonder.

¹¹ black fox.

¹² lived.

¹³ premeditated.

¹⁴ hedges.

¹⁵ burst.

¹⁶ herbs.

¹⁷ the middle of the forenoon.

¹⁸ lie.

¹⁹ dissembler.

²⁰ absolutely.

²¹ foresees.

²² necessarily.

²³ let him witness it.

²⁴ sift the matter.

²⁵ constrains.

²⁶ necessarily.

²⁷ baneful.

²⁸ in sport.

²⁹ authors.

Thise been the cokkes wordes, and nat
myne; 445

I can noon harm of no womman divyne.¹

Faire in the sond,² to bathe hir merily,
Lyth Pertelote, and alle hir sustres by,
Agayn the sonne; and Chauntecleer so
free

Song merier than the mermayde in the
see;

For Physiologus seith sikerly, 451

How that they singen wel and merily.

And so bifel, that as he caste his yē,

Among the wortes,³ on a boterflye,
He was war of this fox that lay ful lowe.⁴ 455

No-thing ne liste him thanne for to crowe,
But cryde anon, "cok, cok," and up he
sterde,

As man that was affrayed in his herte.

For naturelly a beest desyreth flee

Fro his contrarie, if he may it see, 460

Though he never erst⁴ had seyn it with his
yē.

This Chauntecleer, whan he gan him
espye,

He wolde han fled, but that the fox anon
Seyde, "Gentil sire, allas! wher wol ye
gon?"

Be ye affrayed of me that am your freend?

Now certes, I were worse than a feend, 466

If I to yow wolde harm or vileinye.

I am nat come your counseil⁵ for tespye,⁶

But trewely, the cause of my cominge

Was only for to herkne how that ye singe.

For trewely ye have as mery a stevene,⁷ 471

As eny aungel hath, that is in hevене;

Therwith ye han in musik more feline

Than hadde Boece, or any that can singe.

My lord your fader (god his soule blesse!)

And eek your moder, of hir gentilesse, 476

Han in myn hous y-been, to my gret ese,⁸

And certes, sire, ful fayn wolde I yow plese.

But for men speke of singing, I wol saye,

So mote I brouke⁹ wel myn eyen¹⁰ tweye,¹¹ 480

Save yow, I herde never man so singe,

As dide your fader in the morweninge;

Certes, it was of herte, al that he song.

And for to make his voys the more strong,

He wolde so peyne him,¹¹ that with both
his yēn¹⁰ 485

He moste¹² winke, so loude he wolde
cryen,

And stonden on his tiptoon¹³ therwithal,
And strecche forth his nekke long and smal.

And eek he was of swich discrecioun,

That ther nas no man in no regioun 490

That him in song or wisdom mighte passe.

I have weel rad in daun Burnel the Asse,

Among his vers, how that ther was a cok,

For that a preestes sone yaf him a knok

Upon his leg, whyl he was yong and nyce,

He made him for to lese¹⁴ his benefyce. 496

But certeyn, ther nis no comparisoun

Bitwix the wisdom and discrecioun

Of youre fader, and of his subtiltee.

Now singeth, sire, for seinte¹⁵ charitee, 500

Let see, conne ye your fader countre-
fete?"¹⁶

This Chauntecleer his winges gan to bete,¹⁷

As man that coude his tresoun nat espye,

So was he ravissed with his flaterye.

Allas! ye lordes, many a fals flatour¹⁸ 505

Is in your courtes, and many a losen-
geour,¹⁹

That plesen yow wel more, by my feith,
Than he that soothfastnesse²⁰ unto yow
seith.

Redeth Ecclesiaste of flaterye;
Beth²¹ war,²² ye lordes, of hir trecherye. 510

This Chauntecleer stood hye up-on his
toos,

Strecching his nekke, and heeld his eyen
cloos,

And gan to crowe loude for the nones;

And daun Russel the fox sterte up at
ones,²³

And by the gargat²⁴ hente²⁵ Chauntecleer,

And on his bak toward the wode him
beer,²⁶ 516

For yet ne was ther no man that him
sewed.²⁷

O destinee, that mayst nat ben eschewed!²⁸

Allas, that Chauntecleer fleigh fro the
bemes!

Allas, his wyf ne roghte²⁹ nat of dremes! 520

And on a Friday fil al this meschaunce.

O Venus, that art goddesse of plesaunce,³⁰

Sin that thy servant was this Chauntecleer,

And in thy service dide al his poweer,

More for delyt, than world to multiplie,

Why woldestow³¹ suffre him on thy day to
dye? 526

¹ declare.

² sand.

³ herbs.

⁴ before.

⁵ secrets.

⁶ to spy out.

⁷ voice.

⁸ pleasure.

⁹ have the use of.

¹⁰ eyes.

¹¹ take such pains.

¹² needed to.

¹³ tip-toes.

¹⁴ lose.

¹⁵ holy.

¹⁶ imitate.

¹⁷ flap.

¹⁸ flatterer.

¹⁹ deceiver.

²⁰ truth.

²¹ be.

²² wary.

²³ at once.

²⁴ throat.

²⁵ seized.

²⁶ bore.

²⁷ followed.

²⁸ avoided.

²⁹ cared.

³⁰ delight.

³¹ wouldst thou.

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And after wol I telle his aventure.

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That it was pryme,³ and crew with blisful
stevene.⁴

"The sonne," he sayde, "is clomben up on
hevene

Fourty degrees and oon, and more, y-wis.⁵
Madame Pertelote, my worldes blis,³⁸⁰
Herkneth thise blisful briddes how they
sing,

And see the fresshe floures how they
springe;

Ful is myn hert of revel and solas."
But sodeinly him fil a sorweful cas;⁶
For ever the latter ende of Ioye is wo.³⁸⁵

God woot that worldly Ioye is sone ago;⁷
And if a rethor⁸ coude faire endyte,
He in a chronique sauflly⁹ mighte it write,
As for a sovereyn notabilitee.¹⁰

Now every wys man, lat him herkne me;
This storie is al-so trewe, I undertake,³⁹¹
As is the book of Launcelot de Lake,
That wommen holde in ful gret reverence.
Now wol I torne agayn to my sentence.

A col-fox,¹¹ ful of sly iniquitee,³⁹⁵
That in the grove hadde woned¹² yeres
three,

By heigh imaginacioun forncast,¹³
The same night thurgh-out the hegges¹⁴
brast¹⁵

Into the yerd, ther Chauntecleer the faire
Was wont, and eek his wyves, to repaire;
And in a bed of wortes¹⁶ stille he lay,⁴⁰¹
Til it was passed undern¹⁷ of the day,
Wayting his tyme on Chauntecleer to falle,
As gladly doon thise homicydes alle,

That in awayt ligger¹⁸ to mordre men.⁴⁰⁵
O false morderer, lurking in thy den!
O newe Scariot, newe Genilon!

False dissimilour,¹⁹ O Greek Sinon,
That broghtest Troye al outrely²⁰ to sorwe!
O Chauntecleer, acursed be that morwe,⁴¹⁰
That thou into that yerd flough fro the
bemes!

Thou were ful wel y-warned by thy dremes,
That thilke day was perilous to thee.

But what that god forwot²¹ mot nedes²²
be,

After the opinioun of certeyn clerkis.⁴¹⁵
Witnesse on him²³ that any perfit clerk is,
That in scole is gret altercacioun
In this matere, and greet disputisoun,
And hath ben of an hundred thousand
men.

But I ne can not bulte it to the bren,²⁴⁴²⁰
As can the holy doctour Augustyn,

Or Boece, or the bishop Bradwardyn,
Whether that goddes worthy forwiting
Streyneth²⁵ me nedely²⁶ for to doon a
thing,

(Nedely clepe I simple necessitee);⁴²⁵
Or elles, if free choys be graunted me
To do that same thing, or do it noght,
Though god forwot it, er that it was
wroght;

Or if his witing streyneth nevere a del
But by necessitee condicionel.⁴³⁰

I wol not han to do of swich matere;
My tale is of a cok, as ye may here,
That took his counsel of his wyf, with
sorwe,

To walken in the yerd upon that morwe
That he had met the drem, that I yow
tolde.⁴³⁵

Wommennes counsels been ful ofte
colde;²⁷

Wommannes conseil broghte us first to
wo,

And made Adam fro paradys to go,
Ther as he was ful mery, and wel at ese.

But for I noot, to whom it mighte displese,
If I counsel of wommen wolde blame,⁴⁴¹
Passe over, for I seyde it in my game.²⁸

Rede auctours,²⁹ wher they trete of swich
matere,

And what thay seyn of wommen ye may
here.

¹ nature.² teaching.³ nine o'clock A. M.⁴ voice.⁵ certainly.⁶ a sad accident befell him.⁷ gone.⁸ rhetorician.⁹ safely.¹⁰ wonder.¹¹ black fox.¹² lived.¹³ premeditated.¹⁴ hedges.¹⁵ burst.¹⁶ herbs.¹⁷ the middle of the forenoon.¹⁸ lie.¹⁹ dissembler.²⁰ absolutely.²¹ foresees.²² necessarily.²³ let him witness it.²⁴ sift the matter.²⁵ constrains.²⁶ necessarily.²⁷ baneful.²⁸ in sport.²⁹ authors.

Thise been the cokkes wordes, and nat
myne; 445

I can noon harm of no womman divyne.¹

Faire in the sond,² to bathe hir merily,
Lyth Pertelote, and alle hir sustres by,
Agayn the sonne; and Chauntecleer so
free

Song merier than the mermayde in the
see;

For Physiologus seith sikerly, 451

How that they singen wel and merily.

And so bifel, that as he caste his yē,

Among the wortes,³ on a boterflye,

He was war of this fox that lay ful lowe. 455

No-thing ne liste him thanne for to crowe,
But cryde anon, "cok, cok," and up he
sterde,

As man that was affrayed in his herte.

For naturelly a beest desyareth flee

Fro his contrarie, if he may it see, 460

Though he never erst⁴ had seyn it with his
yē.

This Chauntecleer, whan he gan him
espye,

He wolde han fled, but that the fox anon
Seyde, "Gentil sire, allas! wher wol ye
gon?

Be ye affrayed of me that am your freend?

Now certes, I were worse than a feend, 466

If I to yow wolde harm or vileinye.

I am nat come your counseil⁵ for tespye,⁶

But trewely, the cause of my cominge

Was only for to herkne how that ye singe.

For trewely ye have as mery a stevene,⁷ 471

As eny aungel hath, that is in hevene;

Therwith ye han in musik more felling

Than hadde Boece, or any that can singe.

My lord your fader (god his soule blesse!)

And eek your moder, of hir gentillesse, 476

Han in myn hous y-been, to my gret ese,⁸

And certes, sire, ful fayn wolde I yow plese.

But for men speke of singing, I wol saye,

So mote I brouke⁹ wel myn eyen¹⁰ tweye, 480

Save yow, I herde never man so singe,

As dide your fader in the morweninge;

Certes, it was of herte, al that he song.

And for to make his voys the more strong,

He wolde so peyne him,¹¹ that with both
his yēn¹⁰ 485

He moste¹² winke, so loude he wolde
cryen,

And stonden on his tiptoon¹³ therewithal,
And strecche forth his nekke long and smal.

And eek he was of swich discrecioun,

That ther nas no man in no regioun 490

That him in song or wisdom mighte passe.

I have weel rad in daun Burnel the Asse,

Among his vers, how that ther was a cok,

For that a preestes sone yaf him a knok

Upon his leg, whyl he was yong and nyce,

He made him for to lese¹⁴ his benefyce. 496

But certeyn, ther nis no comparisoun

Bitwix the wisdom and discrecioun

Of youre fader, and of his subtiltee.

Now singeth, sire, for seinte¹⁵ charitee, 500

Let see, conne ye your fader countre-
fete?"¹⁶

This Chauntecleer his winges gan to bete,¹⁷

As man that coude his tresoun nat espye,

So was he ravished with his flaterye.

Allas! ye lordes, many a fals flatour¹⁸ 505

Is in your courtes, and many a losen-
geour,¹⁹

That plesen yow wel more, by my feith,
Than he that soothfastnesse²⁰ unto yow
seith.

Redeth Ecclesiaste of flaterye;

Beth²¹ war,²² ye lordes, of hir trecherye. 510

This Chauntecleer stood hye up-on his
toos,

Strecching his nekke, and heeld his eyen
cloos,

And gan to crowe loude for the nones;

And daun Russel the fox sterte up at
ones,²³

And by the gargat²⁴ hente²⁵ Chauntecleer,
And on his bak toward the wode him
beer,²⁶ 516

For yet ne was ther no man that him
sewed.²⁷

O destinee, that mayst nat ben eschewed!²⁸

Allas, that Chauntecleer fleigh fro the
bemes!

Allas, his wyf ne roghte²⁹ nat of dremes! 520

And on a Friday fil al this meschaunce.

O Venus, that art goddesse of plesaunce,³⁰

Sin that thy servant was this Chauntecleer,

And in thy service dide al his poweer,

More for delyt, than world to multiplie,

Why woldestow³¹ suffre him on thy day to
dye?

526

¹ declare. ² sand. ³ herbs.

⁴ before.

⁵ secrets. ⁶ to spy out. ⁷ voice.

⁸ pleasure.

⁹ have the use of. ¹⁰ eyes.

¹¹ take such pains. ¹² needed to.

¹³ tip-toes. ¹⁴ lose. ¹⁵ holy.

¹⁶ imitate. ¹⁷ flap.

¹⁸ flatterer. ¹⁹ deceiver.

²⁰ truth. ²¹ be.

²² wary. ²³ at once.

²⁴ throat. ²⁵ seized.

²⁶ bore. ²⁷ followed.

²⁸ avoided. ²⁹ wouldst thou.

³⁰ cared. ³¹ delight.

O Gaufred, dere mayster soverayn,
That, whan thy worthy king Richard was
slayn

With shot, compleynedest his deth so sore,
Why ne hadde I¹ now thy sentence² and
thy lore,³ 530

The Fryday for to chide, as diden ye?
(For on a Friday soothly slayn was he.)
Than wolde I shewe yow how that I coude
pleyne⁴

For Chauntecleres drede,⁵ and for his
peyne.⁶

Certes, swich⁷ cry ne lamentacioun 535
Was never of ladies maad, whan Ilioun
Was wonne, and Pirrus with his streite⁸
swerd,

Whan he hadde hent⁹ king Priam by the
berd,

And slayn him (as saith us *Eneydos*),
As maden alle the hennes in the clos,¹⁰ 540
Whan they had seyn of Chauntecleer the
sighte.

But sovereynly dame Pertelote shrighite,
Ful louder than dide Hasdrubales wyf,
Whan that hir housbond hadde lost his lyf,
And that the Romayns hadde brend¹¹

Cartage. 545

She was so ful of torment and of rage,
That wilfully into the fyr she sterte,¹²
And brende hir-selven with a stedfast
herte.

O woful hennes, right so cryden ye,
As, whan that Nero brende the citee 550
Of Rome, cryden senatoures wyves,
For that hir housbondes losten alle hir
lyves;

Withouten gilt this Nero hath hem slayn.
Now wol I torne to my tale agayn.

This sely¹³ widwe, and eek hir doghtres
two, 555

Herden thise hennes crye and maken wo,
And out at dores sterten thay anoon,
And syen¹⁴ the fox toward the grove goon,
And bar upon his bak the cok away; 559
And cryden, "Out! harrow! and weylaway!
Ha, ha, the fox!" and after him they ran,
And eek with staves many another man;
Ran Colle our dogge, and Talbot, and
Gerland,

And Malkin, with a distaf in hir hand;

Ran cow and calf, and eek the verray
hogges, 565

So were they fered for¹⁵ berking of the
dogges

And shouting of the men and wimmen eke,
They ronne so, hem thoughte hir herte
breke.

They yelleden as feendes doon¹⁶ in helle;
The dokes cryden as¹⁷ men wolde hem
quelle;¹⁸ 570

The gees for fere flowen over the trees;
Out of the hyve cam the swarm of bees;
So hidous was the noyse, a! *benedicite!*

Certes, he lakke Straw, and his meynee,¹⁹
Ne maden²⁰ never shoutes half so shrille,
Whan that they wolden any Fleming kille,
As thilke day was maad upon the fox. 577
Of bras thay broghten bemes,²¹ and of
box,²²

Of horn, of boon, in whiche they blewe and
pouped,²³

And therewithal they shryked and they
houped;²⁴ 580

It semed as that heven sholde falle.

Now, gode men, I pray yow herkneth
alle!

Lo, how fortune turneth sodeinly
The hope and pryde eek of hir enemy!
This cok, that lay upon the foxes bak, 585

In al his drede, un-to the fox he spak,
And seyde, "sire, if that I were as ye,
Yet sholde I seyn (as wis²⁵ god helpe me),
'Turneth agayn, ye proude cherles alle!

A verray pestilence up-on yow falle! 590
Now am I come un-to this wodes syde,
Maugree your heed,²⁶ the cok shal heer
abyde;

I wol him ete in feith, and that anon.'"
The fox answerde, "in feith, it shal be
don,"—

And as he spak that word, al sodeinly 595
This cok brak²⁷ from his mouth deliverly,²⁸
And heighe²⁹ up-on a tree he fleigh anon.

And whan the fox saugh that he was
y-gon,

"Allas!" quod he, "O Chauntecleer, alas!
I have to yow," quod he, "y-doon trespas,
In-as-muche as I maked yow aferd, 601
Whan I yow hente, and broghte out of the
yerd;

¹ had I not.

² learning.

³ knowledge.

⁴ lament.

⁶ fear.

⁶ grief.

⁷ such.

⁸ drawn.

⁹ seized.

¹⁰ enclosure.

¹¹ burned.

¹² leaped.

¹³ simple.

¹⁴ saw.

¹⁵ frightened by. ¹⁶ do. ¹⁷ as if. ¹⁸ kill. ¹⁹ company.

²⁰ did not make.

²¹ trumpets.

²² box-wood.

²³ puffed. ²⁴ whooped. ²⁵ surely.

²⁶ in spite of your head; in spite of all you can do.

²⁷ broke.

²⁸ nimbly. ²⁹ high.

But, sire, I dide it in no wikke¹ entente;
Com doun, and I shal telle yow what I
mente.

I shal seye sooth to yow, god help me so."
"Nay than," quod he, "I shrewe² us bothe
two, 606

And first I shrewe my-self, bothe blood and
bones,

If thou bigyle me offer than ones.

Thou shalt namore, thurgh thy flaterye
Do me to³ singe and winke with myn
yē. 610

For he that winketh, whan he sholde see,
Al wilfully, god lat him never thee!"⁴

"Nay," quod the fox, "but god yeve⁵ him
meschaunce,⁶

That is so undiscreet of governaunce,⁷
That iangleth⁸ whan he sholde holde his
pees." 615

Lo, swich it is for to be recchelees,⁹
And negligent, and truste on flaterye.
But ye that holden this tale a folye,¹⁰
As of a fox, or of a cok and hen,
Taketh the moralitee, good men. 620

For seint Paul seith, that al that writen is,
To¹¹ our doctryne¹² it is y-write, y-wis.
Taketh the fruyt, and lat the chaf be stille.

Now, gode god, if that it be thy wille,
As seith my lord, so make us alle good men;
And bringe us to his heighe blisse. Amen.

THE PARDONER'S TALE

Heere bigynneth the Pardoners Tale

In Flaundres whylom was a companye
Of yonge folk, that haunteden¹³ folye, 136
As ryot, hasard,¹⁴ stewes,¹⁵ and tavernes,
Wher-as, with harpes, lutes, and giternes,¹⁶
They daunce and pleye at dees bothe day
and night,

And ete also and drinken over hir might,
Thurgh which they doon the devel
sacrifyse 141

With-in that develes temple, in cursed
wyse,

By superfluitee abhominable;
Hir othes been so gret and so dampnable,
That it is grisly for to here hem swere; 145
Our blissed lordes body they to-tore,¹⁷

Hem thoughte¹⁸ Iewes rente him noght
ynough;

And ech of hem at otheres sinne lough.
And right anon than comen tombesteres¹⁹
Fetys²⁰ and smale, and yonge fruyteteres,²¹
Singers with harpes [eek, and] wafereres,²²
Whiche been the verray develes officeres
To kindle and blowe the fyr of [luxurye],
That is annexed un-to glotonye;
The holy writ take I to my witnesse, 155
That luxurie is in wyn and dronkenesse.

* * * * *

Herodes (who so wel the stories soughte)
Whan he of wyn was replet at his feste, 161
Ryght at his owene table he yaf his heste²³
To sleen the Baptist John ful gileteles.

Senek²⁴ seith eek a good word doutelees;
He seith, he can no difference finde 165
Bitwix a man that is out of his minde
And a man which that is dronkelewe,²⁵
But that woodnesse,²⁶ yfallen in a shrewe,²⁷
Persevereth lenger than doth dronken-
esse.

O glotonye, ful of cursednesse, 170
O cause first of our confusioun,
O original of our dampnacioun,
Til Crist had boght us with his blood
agayn!

Lo, how dere, shortly for to sayn,
Aboght²⁸ was thilke cursed vileinye; 175
Corrupt was al this world for glotonye!

Adam our fader, and his wyf also,
Fro Paradys to labour and to wo
Were driven for that vyce, it is no drede;²⁹
For whyl that Adam fasted, as I rede, 180
He was in Paradys; and whan that he
Eet of the fruyt defended³⁰ on the tree,
Anon he was out-cast to wo and peyne.
O glotonye, on thee wel oghte us pleyne!³¹
O, wiste a man how many maladyes 185
Folwen of excesse and of glotonyes,
He wolde been the more mesurable³²
Of his diete, sittinge at his table.

Allas! the shorte throte, the tendre mouth,
Maketh that, Est and West, and North
and South, 190
In erthe, in eir, in water men to-swinke³³
To gete a glotoun deyntee mete and
drinke!

¹ wicked.

² curse.

³ make me.

⁴ prosper.

⁵ give.

⁶ bad luck.

⁷ self-control.

⁸ prattles.

⁹ careless.

¹⁰ silly thing.

¹¹ for.

¹² teaching.

¹³ practised.

¹⁴ gambling.

¹⁵ brothels.

¹⁶ guitars.

¹⁷ tear in pieces.

¹⁸ it seemed to them.

¹⁹ fruit sellers.

²⁰ dancing girls.

²¹ graceful.

²² confectioners.

²³ command.

²⁴ Seneca.

²⁵ a drunkard.

²⁶ madness.

²⁷ wretch.

²⁸ without doubt.

²⁹ forbidden.

³⁰ complain.

³¹ temperate.

³² labor hard.

Of this matere, O Paul, wel canstow trete,
 "Mete un-to wombe,¹ and wombe eek
 un-to mete,
 Shal god destroyen bothe," as Paulus
 seith. 195

Allas! a foul thing is it, by my feith,
 To seye this word, and fouler is the dede,
 Whan man so drinketh of the whyte and
 rede,

That of his throte he maketh his privee,
 Thurgh thilke cursed superfluitee. 200

The apostel weping seith ful pitously,
 "Ther walken many of whiche yow told
 have I,

I seye it now weping with pitous voys,
 That they been enemyes of Cristes croys,²
 Of whiche the ende is deeth, wombe¹ is her
 god." 205

* * * * *

How gret labour and cost is thee to
 fynde!³

Thise cokes, how they stampe, and
 streyne,⁴ and grinde, 210

And turnen substaunce in-to accident,
 To fulfille al thy likerous⁵ talent!⁶

Out of the harde bones knokke they
 The mary,⁷ for they caste noght a-vey

That may go thurgh the golet softe and
 swote;⁸ 215

Of spicerye, of leef, and bark, and rote⁹
 Shal been his sauce ymaked by delyt,

To make him yet a newer appetyt.
 But certes, he that haunteth swich
 delyces¹⁰

Is deed, whyl that he liveth in tho vyces.
 A [cursed] thing is wyn, and dronken-
 esse 221

Is ful of stryving¹¹ and of wrecchednesse.
 O dronke man, disfigured is thy face,

Sour is thy breeth, foul artow to embrace,
 And thurgh thy dronke nose semeth the
 soun¹² 225

As though thou seydest ay "Sampsoun,
 Sampsoun,"

And yet, god wot, Sampsoun drank never
 no wyn.

Thou fallest, as it were a stiked swyn;
 Thy tonge is lost, and al thyn honest
 cure;¹³ 230

For dronkenesse is verray sepulture

1 belly. 2 cross. 3 maintain. 4 labor.
 5 daintly. 6 appetite. 7 marrow. 8 sweetly.
 9 root. 10 pleasures. 11 strife. 12 sound.
 13 care for honorable reputation.

Of mannes wit and his discrecioun.

In whom that drinke hath dominacioun,
 He can no conseil kepe, it is no drede.

Now kepe yow fro the whyte and fro the
 rede,

And namely fro the whyte wyn of Lepe,²³⁵
 That is to selle in Fishstrete or in Chepe.

This wyn of Spayne crepeth subtilly
 In othere wynes, growing faste by,

Of which ther ryseth swich fumositee,¹⁴
 That whan a man hath dronken draughtes
 three, 240

And weneth¹⁵ that he be at hoom in Chepe,
 He is in Spayne, right at the tounne of
 Lepe,

Nat at the Rochel, ne at Burdeux toun;
 And thanne wol he seye, "Sampsoun,
 Sampsoun."

But herkneth, lordings, o word, I yow
 preye, 245

That alle the sovereyn actes, dar I seye,
 Of victories in the olde testament,

Thurgh verray¹⁶ god, that is omnipotent,
 Were doon in abstinence and in preyere;

Loketh the Bible, and ther ye may it lere.
 Loke, Attila, the grete conquerour, 251

Deyde¹⁷ in his sleep, with shame and dis-
 honour,

Bleding ay at his nose in dronkenesse;
 A capitayn shoulde live in sobernesse.

And over al this, avyseth yow¹⁸ right wel 255
 What was comaunded un-to Lamuel—

Nat Samuel, but Lamuel, seye I—
 Redeth the Bible, and finde it expresly

Of wyn-yeving¹⁹ to hem that han Iustyse;
 Namore of this, for it may wel suffyse. 260

And now that I have spoke of glotonye,
 Now wol I yow defenden²⁰ hasardrye.²¹

Hasard is verray moder of lesinges,²²
 And of deceite, and cursed forswerings,²³

BlaspHEME of Crist, manslaughter, and
 wast²⁴ also 265

Of catel²⁵ and of tyme; and forthermo,
 It is repreve²⁶ and contrarie of honour

For to ben holde²⁷ a commune hasardour.
 And ever the hyer he is of estaat,

The more is he holden desolaat.²⁸ 270

If that a prince useth hasardrye,
 In alle governaunce and policye

He is, as by commune opinoun,
 Yholde the lasse in reputacioun.

¹⁴ confusing fumes.

¹⁷ died.

²¹ gambling.

²⁵ wealth.

¹⁵ thinks.

¹⁸ consider.

²² lies.

²⁶ a reproach.

¹⁶ the true.

¹⁹ giving.

²³ perjury.

²⁷ known as.

²⁰ forbid.

²⁴ waste.

²⁸ shunned.

Stilbon, that was a wys embassadour,²⁷⁵
Was sent to Corinthe, in ful greet honour,
Fro Lacidomie, to make hir alliaunce.
And whan he cam, him happede, par
chaunce,
That alle the grettest that were of that
lond,

Pleyinge atte hasard he hem fond. 280
For which, as sone as it mighte be,
He stal¹ him hoom¹ agayn to his contree,
And seyde, "Ther wol I nat lese² my
name;

Ne I wol nat take on me so greet defame,³
Yow for to allye un-to none hasardours. 285
Sendeth othere wyse embassadours;
For, by my trouthe, me were lever⁴ dye,
Than I yow sholde to hasardours allye.
For ye that been so glorious in honours
Shul nat allyen yow with hasardours 290
As by my wil, ne as by my tretee."
This wyse philosopre thus seyde he.

Loke eek that to the king Demetrius
The king of Parthes, as the book seith
us,

Sente him a paire of dees⁵ of gold in scorn,
For he hadde used hasard ther-bifore; 296
For which he heeld his glorie or his renoun
At no value or reputacioun.
Lordes may fynden other maner pley
Honeste ynough to dryve the day away. 300

Now wol I speke of othes false and grete
A word or two, as olde bokes trete.

Gret swering is a thing abhominable,
And fals swering is yet more reprevable.
The heighe god forbad swering at al, 305
Witnesse on Mathew; but in special
Of swering seith the holy Ieremye,
"Thou shalt seye sooth⁶ thyn othes, and
nat lye,

And swere in dome,⁷ and eek in right-
wisnesse;"

But ydel swering is a cursednesse. 310
Bihold and see, that in the firste table
Of heighe goddes hestes⁸ honourable,
How that the seconde heste of him is
this—

"Tak nat my name in ydel⁹ or amis."
Lo, rather he forbedeth swich swering 315
Than homicyde or many a cursed thing;
I seye that, as by ordre, thus it stondeth;
This knowen, that¹⁰ his hestes under-
stondeth,

How that the second heste of god is that.
And forther over, I wol thee telle al plat,¹¹
That vengeance shal nat parten¹² from his
hous, 321

That of his othes is to outrageous.

"By goddes precious herte, and by his
nayles,

And by the blode of Crist, that it is in
Hayles,

Seven is my chaunce, and thyn is cink¹³
and treye;¹⁴ 325

By goddes armes, if thou falsly pleye,
This dagger shal thurgh-out thyn herte
go"—

This fruyt cometh of the bicched¹⁵ bones
two,

Forswering, ire, falsnesse, homicyde.

Now, for the love of Crist that for us dyde,
Leveth your othes, bothe grete and smale;
But, sirs, now wol I telle forth my tale. 332

Thise ryotoures three, of whiche I telle,
Longe erst er pryme¹⁶ rong of any belle,
Were set hem in a taverne for to drinke; 335
And as they satte, they herde a belle clinke
Bifore a cors, was caried to his grave;
That oon of hem gan callen to his knave,
"Go bet,"¹⁷ quod he, "and axe redily,
What cors is this that passeth heer forby;
And look that thou reporte his name
wel." 341

"Sir," quod this boy, "it nedeth
neveradel.¹⁸

It was me told, er ye cam heer, two houres;
He was, pardee, an old felawe¹⁹ of youres;
And sodeynly he was yslayn to-night, 345
For-dronke,²⁰ as he sat on his bench
upright;

Ther cam a privee theef, men clepeth²¹
Deeth,

That in this contree al the peple sleeth,
And with his spere he smoot his herte
atwo, 349

And wente his wey with-outen wordes mo.
He hath a thousand slayn this pestilence:
And, maister, er ye come in his presence,
Me thinketh that it were necessarie
For to be war of swich an adversarie:

Beth redy for to mete him evermore. 355
Thus taughte me my dame, I sey namore."

"By seinte Marie," seyde this taverne,
"The child seith sooth,²² for he hath slayn
this yeer,

¹ returned. ² lose. ³ dishonor. ⁴ I would rather.

⁵ dice. ⁶ truthfully. ⁷ judgment.

⁸ commandments. ⁹ in vain. ¹⁰ those who.

¹¹ plainly. ¹² depart. ¹³ five. ¹⁴ three. ¹⁵ cursed.

¹⁶ nine o'clock A. M. ¹⁷ quickly. ¹⁸ there is no need of it.

¹⁹ companion. ²⁰ dead drunk. ²¹ name. ²² truth.

Henne¹ over a myle, with-in a greet village,
Both man and womman, child and hyne,²
and page. 360

I trowe his habitacioun be there;
To been avysed³ greet wisdom it were,
Er that he dide a man a dishonour."
"Ye, goddes armes," quod this ryotour,
"Is it swich peril with him for to mete? 365
I shal him seke by wey and eek by strete,
I make avow to goddes digne⁴ bones!
Herkneth, felawes, we three been al ones;⁵
Lat ech of us holde up his hond til other,
And ech of us bicomen otheres brother, 370
And we wol sleen this false traytour Deeth;
He shal be slayn, which that so many
sleeth,

By goddes dignitee, er it be night."
Togidres han thise three her trouthes
plight,
To live and dyen ech of hem for other, 375
As though he were his 'owene yboren⁶
brother.

And up they sterte al dronken, in this rage,
And forth they goon towardses that village,
Of which the taverner had spoke biforn,
And many a grisly ooth than han they
sworn, 380
And Cristes blessed body they to-rente—
"Deeth shal be deed, if that they may him
hente."⁷

Whan they han goon nat fully half a
myle,
Right as they wolde han troden over a
style,

An old man and a povre with hem mette.
This olde man ful mekely hem grette, 386
And seyde thus, "now, lordes, god yow
see!"⁸

The proudest of thise ryotoures three
Answerde agayn, "what? carl,⁹ with sory
grace,¹⁰

Why artow¹¹ al forwrapped¹² save thy face?
Why lyvestow so longe in so greet age?"³⁹¹

This olde man gan loken¹³ in his visage,
And seyde thus, "for I ne can nat finde
A man, though that I walked in-to Inde,
Neither in citee nor in no village, 395
That wolde change his youthe for myn
age;

And therfore moot¹⁴ I han myn age stille,
As long time as it is goddes wille.

Ne deeth, allas! ne wol nat han my lyf;
Thus walke I, lyk a resteles caityf, 400
And on the ground, which is my modres
gate,

I knokke with my staf, bothe erly and late,
And seye, 'leve¹⁵ moder, leet me in!
Lo, how I vanish, flesh, and blood, and
skin!

Allas! whan shul my bones been at reste?
Moder, with yow wolde I chaunge my
cheste, 406
That in my chambre longe tyme hath be,
Ye! for an heyre clowt¹⁶ to wrappe me!
But yet to me she wol nat do that grace,
For which ful pale and welked¹⁷ is my
face. 410

But, sirs, to yow it is no curteisye
To speken to an old man vileinye,
But¹⁸ he trespasse in worde, or elles in
dede.

In holy writ ye may your-self wel rede, 414
'Agayns¹⁹ an old man, hoor upon his heed,
Ye sholde aryse,' wherfor I yeve yow reed,²⁰
Ne dooth un-to an old man noon harm
now,

Namore than ye wolde men dide to yow
In age, if that ye so longe abyde;
And god be with yow, wher²¹ ye go²² or
ryde. 420

I moot go thider as I have to go."
"Nay, olde cherl, by god, thou shalt nat
so,"

Seyde this other hasardour anon,
"Thou partest nat so lightly, by seint
Iohn!

Thou spak right now of thilke traitour
Deeth, 425
That in this contree alle our frendes sleeth.
Have heer my trouthe, as thou art his
aspyc,²³

Tel wher he is, or thiou shalt it abyde,²⁴
By god, and by the holy sacrament!
For soothly thou art oon of his assent,²⁵ 430
To sleen us yonge folk, thou false theef!"
"Now, sirs," quod he, "if that yow be so
leef²⁶

To finde Deeth, turne up this coked wey,
For in that grove I lafte him, by my fey,
Under a tree, and ther he wol abyde; 435
Nat for²⁷ your boost²⁸ he wol him no-thing
hyde.

¹ hence. ² servant. ³ forewarned. ⁴ honorable.

⁵ of one mind. ⁶ born. ⁷ seize.

⁸ protect. ⁹ churl. ¹⁰ bad luck to you. ¹¹ seize.

¹² art thou. ¹³ wrapped up. ¹⁴ looked. ¹⁵ must.

¹⁶ dear. ¹⁷ hair cloth.

¹⁸ before. ¹⁹ advice.

²⁰ spy. ²¹ rue.

²² on account of.

²³ withered.

²⁴ whether.

²⁵ conspiracy.

²⁶ boasting.

²⁷ unless.

²⁸ walk.

²⁹ eager.

See ye that ook? right ther ye shul him
finde.
God save yow, that boghte agayn man-
kinde,
And yow amende!"—thus seyde this olde
man.
And everich of thise ryotoures ran, 440
Til he cam to that tree, and ther they
founde
Of florins fyne of golde ycoyned rounde
Wel ny an eight¹ bussshels, as hem
thoughte.
No longer thanne after Deeth they soughte,
But ech of hem so glad was of that sighte,
For that the florins been so faire and
bryghte, 446
That doon they sette hem by this precious
hord.
The worste of hem he spak the firste word.
"Brethren," quod he, "tak kepe² what
I seye;
My wit is greet, though that I bourde³
and pleye. 450
This tresor hath fortune un-to us yiven,
In mirthe and Iolitee our lyf to liven,
And lightly as it comth, so wol we spende.
Ey! goddes precious dignitee! who wende⁴
To-day, that we sholde han so faire a
grace? 455
But mighte this gold be caried fro this
place
Hoom to myn hous, or elles un-to youres—
For wel ye woot that al this gold is oures—
Than were we in heigh felicitee.
But trewely, by daye it may nat be; 460
Men wolde seyn that we were theves
stronge,
And for our owene tresor doon us honge.⁵
This tresor moste ycaried be by nighte
As wysly and as slyly as it mighte. 464
Wherfore I rede that cut among us alle
Be drawe, and lat se wher the cut wol falle;
And he that hath the cut with herte blythe
Shal renne to the toune, and that ful
swythe,⁶
And bringe us breed and wyn ful prively.
And two of us shul kepen subtilly 470
This tresor wel; and, if he wol nat tarie,
Whan it is night, we wol this tresor carie
By oon assent, wher-as us thinketh⁷ best."
That oon of hem the cut broughte in his
fist,⁸

And bad hem drawe, and loke wher it
wol falle; 475
And it fil on the youngest of hem alle;
And forth toward the toun he wente anon.
And al-so sone as that he was gon,
That oon of hem spak thus un-to that
other:
"Thou knowest wel thou art my sworne
brother, 480
Thy profit wol I telle thee anon.
Thou woost wel that our felawe is agon;
And heer is gold, and that ful greet plentee,
That shal departed been among us three.
But natheles, if I can shape it so 485
That it departed were among us two,
Hadde I nat doon a frendes torn to thee?"
That other answerde, "I noot⁹ how that
may be;
He woot¹⁰ how that the gold is with us
tweye;
What shal we doon, what shal we to him
seye?" 490
"Shal it be conseil?"¹¹ seyde the firste
shrewe,¹²
"And I shal tellen thee, in wordes fewe,
What we shal doon, and bringe it wel
aboute."
"I graunte," quod that other, "out of
doute,
That, by my trouthe, I wol thee nat
biwreye."¹³ 495
"Now," quod the firste, "thou woost
wel we be tweye,
And two of us shul strengre be than oon.
Look whan that he is set, and right anon
Arys, as though thou woldest with him
pleye;
And I shal ryve him thurgh the sydes
tweye 500
Whyl that thou strogelest with him as in
game,
And with thy dagger look thou do the
same;
And than shal al this gold departed be,
My dere freend, bitwixen me and thee;
Than may we bothe our lustes al fulfille,⁵⁰⁵
And pleye at dees right at our owene
wille."
And thus acorded¹⁴ been thise shrewes
tweye
To sleen the thridde, as ye han herd me
seye.

¹ eight.⁵ have us hanged.² note of.⁶ quickly.³ jest.⁷ it seems best.⁴ thought.⁸ fist.⁹ know not.¹² scoundrel.¹⁰ knows.¹³ betray.¹¹ a secret.¹⁴ agreed.

This yongest, which that wente un-to
the toun,
Ful ofte in herte he rolleth up and doun 510
The beautee of thise florins newe and
brihte.
"O lord!" quod he, "if so were that I
mighte
Have al this tresor to my-self allone,
Ther is no man that liveth under the
trone¹
Of god, that sholde live so mery as I!" 515
And atte laste the feend, our enemy,
Putte in his thought that he shold poyson
beye,²
With which he mighte sleen his felawes
tweye;
For why³ the feend fond him in swich
lyvinge,
That he had leve⁴ him to sorwe bringe, 520
For this was outrelly⁵ his ful entente
To sleen hem bothe, and never to repente.
And forth he gooth, no lenger wolde he
tarie,
Into the toun, un-to a pothecarie,
And preyed him, that he him wolde
selle 525
Som poyson, that he mighte his rattes
quelle;⁶
And eek ther was a polcat in his hawe,⁷
That, as he seyde, his capouns hadde
yslawe,
And fayn he wolde wreke⁸ him, if he
mighte,
On vermin, that destroyed him by nighte.
The pothecarie answerde, "and thou
shalt have 531
A thing that, al-so god my soule save,
In al this world ther nis no creature,
That ete or dronke hath of this confiture⁹
Noght but the mountance¹⁰ of a corn of
whete, 535
That he ne shal his lyf anon forlete;¹¹
Ye, sterve¹² he shal, and that in lasse whyle
Than thou wolt goon a paas¹³ nat but a
myle;
This poyson is so strong and violent."
This cursed man hath in his hond
yhent¹⁴ 540
This poyson in a box, and sith he ran
In-to the nexte strete, un-to a man,
And borwed of him large botels three;
And in the two his poyson poured he;

The thridde he kepte clene for his drinke.
For all the night he shoop him¹⁵ for to
swinke¹⁶ 546
In caryinge of the gold out of that place.
And whan this ryotour, with sory grace,
Had filled with wyn his grete botels three,
To his felawes agayn repaireth he. 550
What nedeth it to sermone¹⁷ of it more?
For right as they had cast his deeth bifore,
Right so they han him slayn, and that
anon.
And whan that this was doon, thus spak
that oon,
"Now lat us sitte and drinke, and make us
merie, 555
And afterward we wol his body berie."
And with that word it happed him, par
cas,¹⁸
To take the botel ther the poyson was,
And drank, and yaf his felawe drinke
also,
For which anon they storven¹⁹ bothe two.
But, certes, I suppose that Avicen 561
Wroot never in no canon,²⁰ ne in no fen,²⁰
Mo²¹ wonder²² signes of empoisoning
Than haddé thise wrecches two, er hir
ending.
Thus ended been thise homicydes two, 565
And eek the false empoysoner also.

O cursed sinne, ful of cursednesse!
O traytours homicyde, o wikkednesse!
O glotonye, luxurie, and hasardrye!
Thou blasphemour of Crist with vileinye
And othes grete, of usage²³ and of pryde!⁵⁷¹
Allas! mankynde, how may it bityde,
That to thy creatour which that thee
wroghte,
And with his precious herte-blood thee
boghte,
Thou art so fals and so unkinde, allas! 575
Now, goode men, god forgeve yow your
trespas,
And ware yow²⁴ fro the sinne of avaryce.
Myn holy pardoun may yow alle waryce,²⁵
So that ye offre nobles or sterlinges,
Or elles silver broches, spones, ringes. 580
Boweth your heed under this holy bulle!
Cometh up, ye wyves, offreth of your
wolle!²⁶
Your name I entre heer in my rolle anon;
In-to the blisse of hevene shul ye gon;

¹ throne. ² buy. ³ because. ⁴ permission. ⁵ entirely.
⁶ kill. ⁷ yard. ⁸ avenge. ⁹ mixture. ¹⁰ amount.
¹¹ lose. ¹² die. ¹³ at a foot pace. ¹⁴ seized.

¹⁵ planned. ¹⁶ labor. ¹⁷ speak. ¹⁸ by chance.
¹⁹ died. ²⁰ See notes. ²¹ more. ²² wonderful.
²³ habit. ²⁴ keep you. ²⁵ cure. ²⁶ wool.

I yow assoile, by myn heigh power, 585
Yow that wol offre, as clene and eek as
cleer

As ye were born; and, lo, sirs, thus I
preche.

And Iesu Crist, that is our soules leche,
So graunte yow his pardon to receyve;
For that is best; I wol yow nat deceyve. 590

But sirs, o word forgot I in my tale;
I have reliks and pardon in my male,¹
As faire as any man in Engelond,
Whiche were me yeven by the popes
hand.

If any of yow wol, of devocioun, 595
Offren, and han myn absolucioun,
Cometh forth anon, and kneleth heer
adoun,

And mekely receyveth my pardoun:
Or elles, taketh pardon as ye wende,
Al newe and fresh, at every tounes ende,
So that ye offren alwey newe and newe 601
Nobles and pens, which that be gode and
trewe.

It is an honour to everich that is heer,
That ye mowe have a suffisant pardoneer
Tassoille² yow, in contree as ye ryde, 605
For aventures which that may bityde.
Peraventure ther may falle oon or two
Doun of his hors, and breke his nekke
atwo.

Look which a seuretee is it to yow alle
That I am in your felaweship yfalle, 610
That may assoille yow, both more³ and
lasse,⁴

Whan that the soule shal fro the body
passe.

I rede⁵ that our host heer shal biginne,
For he is most enveloped in sinne. 614
Com forth, sir hoste, and offre first anon,
And thou shalt kisse the reliks everichon,⁶
Ye, for a grote! unbokel anon thy purs.

BALADE DE BON CONSEYL

Fle fro the prees,⁷ and dwelle with soth-
fastnesse;⁸

Suffyce unto thy good, though hit be smal;
For hord hath hate, and clymbing tikel-
nesse,⁹

Prees hath envye, and wele¹⁰ blent¹¹ overal;
Savour¹² no more than thee bihove shal; 5

¹ wallet. ² to absolve. ³ high. ⁴ low.
⁵ advise. ⁶ each one. ⁷ the crowd. ⁸ truth.
⁹ uncertainty. ¹⁰ wealth. ¹¹ blinds. ¹² have relish for.

Werk wel thy-self, that other folk canst
rede;¹³

And trouthe shal deliver, hit is no drede.

Tempest thee noght al croked to redresse,
In trust of hir that turneth as a bal;

Gret reste¹⁴ stant¹⁵ in litel besinesse, 10

And eek be war to sporne¹⁶ ageyn an al;
Stryve noght, as doth the crokke with
the wal.

Daunte¹⁷ thyself, that dauntest others
dede;

And trouthe shal deliver, hit is no drede.

That thee is sent, receyve in buxumnesse,¹⁵
The wrastling for this world axeth¹⁸ a fal.
Her nis non hom, her nis but wildernesse;
Forth, pilgrim, forth! Forth, beste, out
of thy stal!

Know thy countree; lok up, thank God of
al;

Hold the hye-way, and lat thy gost¹⁹ thee
lede! 20

And trouthe shal deliver, hit is no drede.

ENVOY

Therefore, thou Vache, leve²⁰ thyn old
wrecchednesse;

Unto the world leve now to be thral;
Crye Him mercy that of His hy goodnesse
Made thee of noght, and in especial 25
Draw unto Him, and pray in general
For thee, and eek for other, hevenlich
mede;²¹

And trouthe shal deliver, hit is no drede.

THE COMPLAINT OF CHAUCER TO HIS EMPTY PURSE

To you, my purse, and to non other wight²²
Compleyne I, for ye be my lady dere!

I am so sory, now that ye be light;
For certes, but²³ ye make me hevye chere,²⁴
Me were as leef be leyd up-on my bere; 5
For whiche un-to your mercy thus I crye:
Beth²⁵ hevye ageyn, or elles mot I dye!

Now voucheth sauf this day, or²⁶ hit be
night,

That I of you the blisful soun may here,
Or see your colour lyk the sonne bright, 10

¹³ advise. ¹⁴ peace. ¹⁵ resides. ¹⁶ kick.
¹⁷ subduc. ¹⁸ asks. ¹⁹ spirit. ²⁰ cease.
²¹ reward. ²² person. ²³ unless. ²⁴ appearance.
²⁵ be. ²⁶ before.

That of yelownesse hadde never pere.
 Ye be my lyf, ye be myn hertes stere,¹
 Quene of comfort and of good companye:
 Beth hevvy ageyn, or elles mot I dye!

Now purs, that be to me my lyves light, ¹⁵
 And saveour, as down² in this worlde here,
 Out of this tounne help me through your
 might,

Sin that ye wole nat been my tresore;
 For I am shave as nye³ as any frere.⁴
 But yit I pray un-to your curtesye: ²⁰
 Beth hevvy ageyn, or elles mot I dye!

LENVOY DE CHAUCER

O conquerour of Brutes Albioun!
 Which that by lyne and free eleccioun
 Ben⁵ verray king, this song to you I sende;
 And ye, that mowen⁶ al myn harm
 amende, ²⁵
 Have mynde up-on my supplicacioun!

ANONYMOUS

PIERS THE PLOWMAN

From the PROLOGUE

In a somer sesun · whon softe was the
 sonne,

I schop⁷ me in-to a schroud⁸ · a scheep⁹
 as I were;

In habite of an hermite · unholy of werkes,
 Wende¹⁰ I wyde in this world · wondres to
 here.

Bote on a May mornynge · on Malverne
 hilles¹¹ ⁵

Me bi-fel¹² a ferly¹³ · of fairy,¹⁴ me thoughte.

I was wery, forwandred,¹⁵ · and went me
 to reste

Under a brod banke · bi a bourne¹⁶ syde,
 And as I lay and leonede¹⁷ · and lokede on
 the watres,

I slumberde in a slepyng · hit sownede¹⁸ so
 murie.¹⁹ ¹⁰

Thenne gon²⁰ I meeten²¹ · a mervelous
 swevene,²²

That I was in a wildernesse · wuste²³ I
 never where;

And as I beheold into the est · an heigh²⁴
 to the sonne,

¹ guide. ² down. ³ close. ⁴ friar. ⁵ art.
⁶ have power to. ⁷ clothed. ⁸ garment.
⁹ shepherd. ¹⁰ went. ¹¹ hills.
¹² happened. ¹³ wonder. ¹⁴ enchantment.
¹⁵ tired with wandering. ¹⁶ brook. ¹⁷ leaned.
¹⁸ sounded. ¹⁹ merry. ²⁰ did.
²¹ dream. ²² dream. ²³ knew.
²⁴ on high.

I sauh²⁵ a tour on a toft²⁶ · trielich²⁷
 ymaked;²⁸

A deop dale bineothe · a dongeon ther-inne,
 With deop dich and derk · and dredful
 of siht.²⁹ ¹⁶

A feir feld ful of folk · fond I ther bitwene,
 Of alle maner of men · the mene³⁰ and the
 riche,

Worching³¹ and wandringe · as the world
 asketh.³²

Summe putten hem³³ to the plow · and
 pleiden³⁴ ful selde,³⁵ ²⁰

In settyng³⁶ and in sowyng · swonken³⁷
 ful harde,

And wonnen that theos³⁸ wasturs³⁹ · in
 glotonye distruen.⁴⁰

And summe putten hem to pruide⁴¹ · ap-
 parayld⁴² hem ther-after,

In continuaunce⁴³ of clothinge · comen dis-
 gised.

To preyere⁴⁴ and to penaunce · putten
 hem monye,⁴⁵ ²⁵

For love of ur⁴⁶ lorde · lyveden⁴⁷ ful streite,
 In hope for to have · hevenriche⁴⁸ blisse;

As ancre⁴⁹ and hermytes · that holdeth
 hem⁵⁰ in heore⁵¹ celles,

Coveyte not in cuntre⁵² · to cairen⁵³ aboute,
 For non likerous⁵⁴ lyfode⁵⁵ · heore licam⁵⁶
 to plesse. ³⁰

And summe chosen chaffare⁵⁷ · to cheeven⁵⁸
 the bettre,

As hit smeth to owre siht · that suche
 men thryveth;

And summe murthes⁵⁹ to maken · as mun-
 strals cunne,⁶⁰ ³⁵

And get gold with here gle⁶¹ · gittles I trowe.
 Bote japers⁶² and jangelers,⁶³ · Iudas chil-
 dren, ³⁵

Founden⁶⁴ hem fantasyes⁶⁵ · and foles
 hem maaden,

And habbeth wit at heor wille⁶⁶ · to
 worchen⁶⁷ gif hem luste;

That⁶⁸ Poul precheth of hem · I dar not
 preoven⁶⁹ heere;

²⁵ saw. ²⁶ cleared space. ²⁷ choicely.
²⁸ made. ²⁹ sight. ³⁰ poor.
³¹ working. ³² requires. ³³ gave themselves.
³⁴ played. ³⁵ seldom. ³⁶ planting.
³⁷ labored. ³⁸ these. ³⁹ wasters.
⁴⁰ destroy. ⁴¹ pride. ⁴² clothed.
⁴³ outward appearance. ⁴⁴ prayer.
⁴⁵ many. ⁴⁶ our. ⁴⁷ lived.
⁴⁸ happiness of the kingdom of heaven.
⁴⁹ nuns. ⁵⁰ keep themselves. ⁵¹ their. ⁵² country.
⁵³ wander. ⁵⁴ luxurious. ⁵⁵ diet. ⁵⁶ body.
⁵⁷ trade. ⁵⁸ prosper. ⁵⁹ amusements.
⁶⁰ know how. ⁶¹ glee. ⁶² fools.
⁶³ buffoons. ⁶⁴ feigned. ⁶⁵ tricks.
⁶⁶ at command. ⁶⁷ work if it pleased them.
⁶⁸ what. ⁶⁹ prove, explain.

Qui loquitur turpiloquium · is Luciferes
hync.
Bidders¹ and beggers · faste aboute eoden,²
Til heor bagges and heor belies · weren
bretful ycrammed;³ 41
Feyneden hem⁴ for heore foode · foughten
atte⁵ ale;
In glotonye, God wot, · gon heo⁶ to
bedde,
And ryseth up with ribaudye⁷ · this rober-
des⁸ knaves;
Sleep and sleuthe · suweth⁹ hem evere. 45
Pilgrimes and palmers · plihten¹⁰ hem
togederes
For to seche¹¹ Seint Jame · and seintes at
Roome;
Wenten forth in heore wey · with mony
wyse tales,
And hadden leve to lyen · al heore lyf aftir.

* * * * *

I fond there freres · all the foure ordres, 55
Preching the peple · for profyt of heore
wombes,¹²
Glosynge¹³ the Gospel · as hem¹⁴ good
liketh,¹⁴
For covetyse¹⁵ of copes · construeth¹⁶ hit
ille;
For monye¹⁷ of this maistres · mowen¹⁸
clothen hem at lyking,¹⁹
For moneye²⁰ and heore marchaundie²¹ ·
meeten oft togedere. 60

* * * * *

Ther prechede a pardoner · as²² he a
prest were, 65
And brought forthe a bulle · with bis-
schopes seles,
And seide that himself mighte · asoylen²³
hem alle
Of falsnesse and fastinge · and of vowes
y-broken.
The lewede²⁴ men leved²⁵ him wel · and
lyked his wordes,
And comen up knelynge · and cussed²⁶
his bulle; 70
He bonchede²⁷ hem with his brevet²⁸ · and
blered heore eyen,²⁹

And rauhte³⁰ with his ragemon³¹ · ringes
and broches.
Thus ye giveth oure³² gold · glotonye to
helpen,
And leveth hit to losels³³ · that lecherie
haunten.³⁴
Weore the bisschop y-blessed · and worth
bothe his eres,³⁵ 75
His seel shulde not be sent · to deceyve
the peple.
Ac³⁷ hit is not bi³⁶ the bisschop · that
the boye precheth;
Bote³⁷ the parisch prest and he · parten
the selver
That the poraille³⁸ of the parisch · schold
have yif thei nere.³⁹

ANONYMOUS

NOAH'S FLOOD

THE WATERLEADERS AND DRAWERS
OF DEE

*First God, sitting in some high place, or in
clouds, if it can be done, speaks to Noah,
standing with all his family outside the
ark.*

GOD. I, God, that all the world have
wrought,
Heaven and earth, and all of nought,
I see my people in deed and thought
Are foully set in sin.
My spirit shall not remain in any man 5
That through fleshly liking is my fone,⁴⁰
But till six score years be gone,
To look if they will blynne.⁴¹

Man that I made I will destroy,
Beast, man, and fowl that fly, 10
For on earth they do me annoy,
The folk that are thereon;
It harms me so hurtfully,
The malice now that does multiply,
That sore it grieveth me inwardly 15
That ever I made man.

Therefore, Noah, my servant free,
That righteous man art, as I see,
A ship soon thou shalt make thee
Of trees dry and light; 20

¹ beggars. ² went. ³ crammed. ⁴ shammed.
⁵ at the. ⁶ they. ⁷ ribaldry. ⁸ these robber.
⁹ seek. ¹⁰ bellies. ¹¹ follow. ¹² plighted.
¹³ as it pleased them. ¹⁴ interpreting. ¹⁵ covetousness. ¹⁶ construe.
¹⁷ many. ¹⁸ may. ¹⁹ as they please. ²⁰ money.
²¹ ignorant. ²² merchandise. ²³ as if. ²⁴ shrive.
²⁵ banged. ²⁶ believed. ²⁷ kissed. ²⁸ eyes.
²⁹ letter of indulgence.

³⁰ reached, got. ³¹ bull. ³² your.
³³ rascals. ³⁴ practise. ³⁵ ears.
³⁶ all the fault of. ³⁷ but.
³⁸ poor people. ³⁹ if it were not for them.
⁴⁰ foe. ⁴¹ cease.

Little chambers therein do thou make,
And binding pitch also do thou take:
Within and without do thou not slake¹
To annoint it with all thy might.

Three hundred cubits it shall be long, 25
And fifty of breadth, to make it strong,
Of height fifty, the measure do thou
fonge:²

Thus measure it about.
One window work by thy wit,
One cubit of length and breadth make it; 30
Upon the side a door shall sit,
For to come in and out.

Eating places do thou make also,
Three roofed chambers, one or two,
For with water I think to flow³ 35
Man that I did make;
Destroyed all the world shall be;
Save thou, thy wife, thy sons three,
And all their wives also with thee,
Shall saved be for their sake. 40

NOAH. Ah, Lord, I thank thee loud and
still,
That to me art in such will,
And sparest me and my house to spill,⁴
As now I soothly find;
Thy bidding, Lord, I shall fulfil, 45
And never more thee grieve nor grill,⁵
That such grace hast sent me till,
Among all mankind.

Have done, you men and women all!
Help, for aught that may befall, 50
To make this ship, chamber and hall,
As God hath bidden us do.
SHEM. Father, I am already bowne:⁶
An axe I have, by my crown,
As sharp as any in all this town, 55
For to go thereto.

HAM. I have a hatchet wonder keen
To bite well, as may be seen;
A better ground, as I ween,
Is not in all this town. 60
JAPHET. And I can well make a pin,
And with this hammer knock it in;
Go and work without more din,
And I am ready bowne.

NOAH'S WIFE. And we shall bring timber
too, 65

For we may nothing else do:
Women be weak to undergo
Any great travail.

SHEM'S WIFE. Here is a good hackstock,⁷
On this you may hew and knock; 70
Shall none be idle in this flock,
Nor now may no man fail.

HAM'S WIFE. And I will go to gather
slich⁸

The ship for to clean and pitch:
Annointed it must be every stitch,⁹ 75
Board, tree and pin.

JAPHET'S WIFE. And I will gather chips
here

To make a fire for you in fere,¹⁰
And for to dight¹¹ your dinner
Against you come in. 80

*Then they make signs as though they were
working with various implements.*

NOAH. Now in the name of God I will
begin

To make the ship that we shall go in,
That we be ready for to swim
At the coming of the flood:
These boards I join here together 85
To keep us safe from the weather,
That we may row both hither and thither,
And safe be from this flood.

Of this tree will I make the mast,
Tied with cables that will last, 90
With a sailyard for each blast,
And each thing in their kind;
With topcastle and bowsprit,
With cords and ropes I have all meet
To sail forth at the next weete:¹² 95
This ship is at an end.

*Then Noah and all his family again make
signs of working with various imple-
ments.*

Wife, in this castle we shall be kept;
My children and thou I would in leapt.
NOAH'S WIFE. In faith, Noah, I had as
lief thou slept.
For all thy frankish fare, 100

¹ be not slack.

⁴ destroy.

² take.

⁵ vex.

³ flood.

⁶ prepared.

⁷ chopping-block.

¹⁰ all together.

⁸ pitch.

¹¹ prepare.

⁹ stick.

¹² wet weather.

I will not do after thy rede.¹

NOAH. Good wife, do now as I thee bid.

NOAH'S WIFE. By Christ! not ere I see
more need,
Though thou stand all the day and stare.

NOAH. Lord, that women be crabbed aye,
And never are meek, that dare I say; 106
This is well seen by me today

In witness of you each one.
Good wife, let be all this bere²
That thou makest in this place here, 110
For all they ween thou art master—
And so thou art, by St. John!

GOD. Noah, take thou thy company,
And in the ship hie that you be,
For none so righteous man to me 115
Is now on earth living.

Of clean beasts do thou with thee take
Seven and seven, ere thou slake,
He and she, make to make,³
Quickly in do thou bring. 120

Of beasts unclean, two and two,
Male and female, without mo;⁴
Of clean fowls seven also,
The he and she together;
Of fowls unclean, two and no more, 125
As I of beasts said before,
That shall be saved through my lore,
Against I send the weather.

Of all meats that must be eaten
Into the ship look there be gotten, 130
For that no way may be forgotten,
And do all this bydene,⁵
To sustain man and beast therein,
Aye till this water cease and blynne.
This world is filled full of sin, 135
And that is now well seen.

Seven days be yet coming,
You shall have space them in to bring;
After that is my liking
Mankind for to annoy: 140
Forty days and forty nights
Rain shall fall for their unrights,
And what I have made through my
mights,
Now think I to destroy.

NOAH. Lord, at your bidding I am bayne,⁶
Since none other your grace will gain, 146
It will I fulfil fain,

For gracious I thee find.
A hundred winters and twenty
This ship making tarried have I, 150
If through amendment any mercy
Would fall unto mankind.

Have done, you men and women all!
Hie you, lest this water fall.
That each beast were in his stall, 155
And into the ship brought!
Of clean beasts seven shall be,
Of unclean two, this God bade me.
This flood is nigh, well may we see;
Therefore tarry you not. 160

*Then Noah shall enter the ark, and his
family shall exhibit and name all the
animals depicted on sheets of parch-
ment, and after each one has spoken his
part, he shall go into the ark, except
Noah's wife. The animals depicted
ought to correspond to the descriptions;
and thus let the first son begin.*

SHEM. Sir, here are lions, leopards in,
Horses, mares, oxen, and swine,
Goats, calves, sheep, and kine,
Here sitting thou mayst see.

HAM. Camels, asses, men may find, 165
Buck, doe, hart, and hind,
And beasts of all manner of kind
Here be, as thinks me.

JAPHET. Take here cats, and dogs too,
Otter, fox, fulmart⁷ also, 170
Hares hopping gaily can go,
Have cowle here for to eat.

NOAH'S WIFE. And here are bears, wolves
set,
Apes, owls, marmoset,
Weasels, squirrels, and ferret; 175
Here they eat their meat.

SHEM'S WIFE. Yet more beasts are in this
house:
Here cats make it full crowse,⁸
Here a rat, here a mouse,
They stand nigh together. 180

¹ counsel.
⁴ more.

² noise.

³ mate.
⁶ quickly.

⁶ ready.

⁷ skunk.

⁸ jolly.

HAM'S WIFE. And here are fowls, less and more:

Herons, cranes, and bittour,¹
Swans, peacocks; and them before
Meat for this weather.

JAPHET'S WIFE. Here are cocks, kites,
crows, 185

Rooks, ravens, many rows;
Ducks, curlews: whoever knows
Each one in his kind?
And here are doves, ducks, drakes,
Redshanks, running through the lakes; 190
And each fowl that language makes
In this ship men may find.

NOAH. Wife, come in! why standest thou here?

Thou art ever froward, that dare I swear.
Come in, on God's half!² time it were, 195
For fear lest that we drown.

NOAH'S WIFE. Yea, sir, set up your sail,
And row forth with evil hail!
For without any fail
I will not out of this town. 200

Unless I have my gossips every one
One foot further I will not gone;³
They shall not drown, by St. John!
If I may save their life!
They loved me full well, by Christ! 205
Unless thou wilt let them in thy chest,
Row forth, Noah, whither thou list,
And get thee a new wife.

NOAH. Shem, son, lo! thy mother is
wraw:⁴

Forsooth, such another I do not know! 210
SHEM. Father, I shall fetch her in, I
trow,

Without any fail.
Mother, my father after thee sent,
And bids thee into yonder ship wend.
Look up and see the wind, 215
For we be ready to sail.

NOAH'S WIFE. Son, go again to him and
say

I will not come therein today.
NOAH. Come in, wife, in twenty devils'
way!

Or else stand there without. 220

HAM. Shall we all fetch her in?

NOAH. Yea, sons, in Christ's blessing
and mine!

I would you hied you betime,
For of this flood I am in doubt.⁵

THE GOOD GOSSIPS. [*They sing.*]
The flood comes in full fleeting fast, 225
On every side it spreadeth full far;
For fear of drowning I am aghast,
Good gossip, let us draw near.
And let us drink ere we depart,
For oftentimes we have done so; 230
For at a draught thou drink'st a quart,
And so will I do, ere I go.

JAPHET. Mother, we pray you altogether,
For we are here, your own children,
Come into the ship for fear of the weather,
For his love that you bought. 236

NOAH'S WIFE. That will I not for all your
call,

Unless I have my gossips all.

SHEM. In faith, mother, yet you shall,
Whether you will or not! 240
[*Then she will go.*]

NOAH. Welcome, wife, into this boat!

NOAH'S WIFE. And have thou that for
thy mote!⁶

[*She deals Noah a blow.*]

NOAH. Aha, marry, this is hot!

It is good to be still.
Ah, children, methinks my boat removes!
Our tarrying here hugely me grieves; 246
Over the land the water spreads—
God do as he will!

Ah, great God that art so good,
He that works not thy will is wood?⁷ 250
Now all this world is in a flood,
As I see well in sight;
This window I will shut anon,
And into my chamber will I gone,
Till this water, so great one, 255
Be slakèd through thy might.

*Then let Noah shut the window of the ark,
and let them, remaining within for a
short time, sing the psalm "Save me,
O God;" then let Noah open the win-
dow and look around.*

¹ bittorn.

³ go—an infinitive.

² for God's sake.

⁴ angry.

⁵ fear.

⁶ chatter.

⁷ mad.

Now forty days are fully gone.
Send a raven I will anon,
To see if anywhere, earth, tree, or stone,
Be dry in any place; 260
And if this fowl come not again,
It is a sign, sooth to sayne,¹
That dry it is on hill or plain,
And God hath done some grace.

*Then let him send out the raven, and taking
a dove in his hands, let him speak.*

Ah, Lord, wherever this raven be, 265
Somewhere is dry, well I see.
But yet a dove, by my loyalty,
After I will send.
Thou wilt turn again to me,
* * * * *
For of all fowls that may fly, 270
Thou art most meek and hend.²

*Then he shall put forth the dove, and there
shall be on the ship another dove bearing
an olive branch in her mouth, which
someone shall let down from the mast
by a cord into Noah's hand, and
afterwards let Noah speak.*

Ah, Lord, blessed be thou aye,
That me hast comforted thus today!
By this sight I may well say
This flood begins to cease: 275
My sweet dove to me brought has
A branch of olive from some place;
This betokeneth God has done us some
grace,
And is a sign of peace.

Ah, Lord, honored may thou be! 280
All earth dries now, I see,
But yet till thou commandest me,
Hence will I not hie.
All this water is away;
Therefore as soon as I may, 285
Sacrifice I shall do in fay³
To thee devoutly.

God. Noah, take thy wife anon,
And thy children every one;
Out of the ship thou shalt gone 290
And they all with thee;

Beasts and all that can fly
Out anon they shall hie,
On earth to grow and multiply;
I will that it so be. 295

NOAH. Lord, I thank thee, through thy
might,
Thy bidding shall be done in hight,⁴
And as fast as I may dight
I will do thee honor,
And to thee offer sacrifice. 300
Therefore comes in all wise,
For of these beasts that be his
Offer I will this store.

*Then coming out of the ark with all his
family Noah shall take his animals
and fowls and make an offering, and
sacrifice.*

Lord God in majesty,
That such grace hast granted me 305
Where all was lost, safe to be,
Therefore now I am bowne,
My wife, my children, my company,
With sacrifice to honor thee,
With beasts, fowls, as thou mayst see, 310
Which I offer here right soon.

God. Noah, to me thou art full able,⁵
And thy sacrifice acceptable,
For I have found thee true and stable;
On thee must I now mind.⁶ 315
Curse earth will I no more
For man's sin that grieves me sore,
For of youth man full yore
Has been inclined to sin.

You shall now grow and multiply, 320
And earth again you shall edify;
Each beast and fowl that may fly
Shall be afraid of you;
And fish in sea that may flytte⁷
Shall sustain you, I you behite,⁸ 325
To eat of them do not let,⁹
That clean be you may know.

Whereas you have eaten before
Grass and roots since you were born,
Of clean beasts, less and more, 330
I give you leave to eat;

¹ say.

² gentle.

³ faith.

⁴ haste.
⁷ swim.

⁵ pleasing.
⁸ promise.

⁶ think.
⁹ hesitate.

Save blood and flesh both in fere¹
Of wrong dead carrion that is here:
Eat not of that in no manner,
For that aye shall you let.² 335

Manslaughter also you shall flee,
For that is not pleasant to me.
That sheds blood, he or she,
Anywhere amongst mankind,
That blood foully shed shall be, 340
And vengeance have that men shall see.
Therefore beware now all ye,
You fall not in that sin.

A foreword³ now with thee I make,
And all thy seed for thy sake, 345
From such vengeance for to slake,
For now I have my will;
Here I promise thee a hest:⁴
That man, woman, fowl nor beast
With water, while the world shall last, 350
I will no more spill.⁵

My bow between you and me
In the firmament shall be,
For very token that you may see
That such vengeance shall cease; 355
That man nor woman shall never more
Be wasted by water, as before;
But for sin, that grieveth me sore,
Therefore this vengeance was.

Where clouds in the welkin been⁶ 360
That same bow shall be seen,
In token that my wrath and teen⁷
Shall never thus wreaked be;
The string is turned toward you,
And toward me is bent the bow, 365
That such weather shall never show,
And this promise I thee.

My blessing now I give thee here,
To thee, Noah, my servant dear,
For vengeance shall no more appear. 370
And now, farewell, my darling dear.

THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH POPULAR BALLADS

EDWARD

1. "Why dois your brand sae drap wi
bluid,
Edward, Edward,

Why dois your brand sae drap wi
bluid,
And why sae sad gang yee O?"
"O I hae killed my hauke sae guid,
Mither, mither,
O I hae killed my hauke sae guid,
And I had nae mair bot⁸ hee O."

2. "Your haukis bluid was nevir sae reid,
Edward, Edward,
Your haukis bluid was nevir sae reid,
My deir son I tell thee O."
"O I hae killed my reid-roan steid,
Mither, mither,
O I hae killed my reid-roan steid,
That erst was sae fair and frie O."

3. "Your steid was auld, and ye hae got
mair,
Edward, Edward,
Your steid was auld, and ye hae got
mair,
Sum other dule⁹ ye drie¹⁰ O."
"O I hae killed my fadir deir,
Mither, mither,
O I hae killed my fadir deir,
Alas, and wae is mee O!"

4. "And whatten penance wul ye drie for
that,
Edward, Edward,
And whatten penance will ye drie for
that?
My deir son, now tell me O."
"Ile set my feit in yonder boat,
Mither, mither,
Ile set my feit in yonder boat,
And Ile fare ovir the sea O."

5. "And what wul ye doe wi your towirs
and your ha,
Edward, Edward?
And what wul ye doe wi your towirs
and your ha,
That were sae fair to see O?"
"Ile let thame stand tul they doun fa,
Mither, mither,
Ile let thame stand tul they doun fa,
For here nevir mair maun¹¹ I bee O."

6. "And what wul ye leive to your bairns
and your wife,
Edward, Edward?

¹ together.
⁴ assurance.

² leave alone.
⁵ destroy.

⁶ be.

³ covenant.
⁷ anger.

⁸ but.

⁹ grief.

¹⁰ suffer.

¹¹ must.

- And what wul ye leive to your bairns
and your wife,
Whan ye gang ovir the sea O?"
"The warldis room, late them beg
thrae¹ life,
Mither, mither,
The warldis room, late them beg thrae
life,
For thame nevir mair wul I see O."
7. "And what wul ye leive to your ain
mither deir,
Edward, Edward?
And what wul ye leive to your ain
mither deir?
My deir son, now tell me O."
"The curse of hell frae me sall ye beir,
Mither, mither,
The curse of hell frae me sall ye beir,
Sic counseils ye gave to me O."

KEMP OWYNE

1. Her mother died when she was young,
Which gave her cause to make great
moan;
Her father married the warst woman
That ever lived in Christendom.
2. She servèd her with foot and hand,
In every thing that she could dee,²
Till once, in an unlucky time,
She threw her in ower Craigy's sea.
3. Says, "Lie you there, dove Isabel,
And all my sorrows lie with thee;
Till Kemp Owyne come ower the sea,
And borrow³ you with kisses three
Let all the warld do what they will,
Oh borrowed shall you never be!"
4. Her breath grew strang, her hair grew
lang,
And twisted thrice about the tree,
And all the people, far and near,
Thought that a savage beast was
she.
5. These news did come to Kemp Owyne,
Where he lived, far beyond the sea;
He hasted him to Craigy's sea,
And on the savage beast lookd he.
6. Her breath was strang, her hair was
lang,
And twisted was about the tree,
And with a swing she came about:
"Come to Craigy's sea, and kiss
with me.
7. "Here is a royal belt," she cried,
"That I have found in the green sea;
And while your body it is on,
Drawn shall your blood never be;
But if you touch me, tail or fin,
I vow my belt your death shall be."
8. He stepped in, gave her a kiss,
The royal belt he brought him wi;
Her breath was strang, her hair was
lang,
And twisted twice about the tree,
And with a swing she came about:
"Come to Craigy's sea, and kiss
with me.
9. "Here is a royal ring," she said,
"That I have found in the green sea;
And while your finger it is on,
Drawn shall your blood never be;
But if you touch me, tail or fin,
I swear my ring your death shall be."
10. He stepped in, gave her a kiss,
The royal ring he brought him wi;
Her breath was strang, her hair was
lang,
And twisted ance about the tree,
And with a swing she came about:
"Come to Craigy's sea, and kiss
with me.
11. "Here is a royal brand," she said,
"That I have found in the green sea;
And while your body it is on,
Drawn shall your blood never be;
But if you touch me, tail or fin,
I swear my brand your death shall
be."
12. He stepped in, gave her a kiss,
The royal brand he brought him wi;
Her breath was sweet, her hair grew
short,
And twisted nane about the tree,
And smilingly she came about,
As fair a woman as fair could be.

¹ through.² do.³ rescue.

SIR PATRICK SPENS

1. The king sits in Dumferling toune,
Drinking the blude-reid wine:
"O whar will I get guid sailor,
To sail this schip of mine?"
2. Up and spak an eldern knight,
Sat at the kings richt kne:
"Sir Patrick Spence is the best sailor,
That sails upon the se."
3. The king has written a braid letter,
And signd it wi his hand,
And sent it to Sir Patrick Spence,
Was walking on the sand.
4. The first line that Sir Patrick red,
A loud lauch lauchd he;
The next line that Sir Patrick red,
The teir blinded his ee.
5. "O wha is this has don this deid,
This ill deid don to me,
To send me out this time o' the yeir,
To sail upon the se!
6. "Mak hast, mak haste, my mirry men
all,
Our guid schip sails the morne:"
"O say na sae, my master deir,
For I feir a deadlie storme.
7. "Late, late yestreen I saw the new
moone,
Wi the auld moone in hir arme,
And I feir, I feir, my deir master,
That we will cum to harme."
8. O our Scots nobles wer richt laith
To weet their cork-heild schoone;
Bot lang owre a' the play wer playd,
Thair hats their swam aboone.¹
9. O lang, lang may their ladies sit,
Wi thair fans into their hand,
Or eir² they se Sir Patrick Spence
Cum sailing to the land.
10. O lang, lang may the ladies stand,
Wi thair gold kems in their hair,
Waiting for thair ain deir lords,
For they'll se thame na mair.

¹ above.² before.

11. Haf owre, haf owre to Aberdour,
It's fiftie fadom deip,
And thair lies guid Sir Patrick Spence,
Wi the Scots lords at his feit.

THE WIFE OF USHER'S WELL

1. There lived a wife at Usher's Well,
And a wealthy wife was she;
She had three stout and stalwart sons,
And sent them oer the sea.
2. They hadna been a week from her,
A week but barely ane,
When word came to the carline³ wife
That her three sons were gane.
3. They hadna been a week from her,
A week but barely three,
When word came to the carlin wife
That her sons she'd never see.
4. "I wish the wind may never cease,
Nor fashes⁴ in the flood,
Till my three sons come hame to me,
In earthly flesh and blood."
5. It fell about the Martinmass,
When nights are lang and mirk,⁵
The carlin wife's three sons came hame,
And their hats were o the birk.⁶
6. It neither grew in syke⁷ nor ditch,
Nor yet in ony sheugh,⁸
But at the gates o Paradise,
That birk grew fair enough.
* * * * *
7. "Blow up the fire, my maidens,
Bring water from the well;
For a' my house shall feast this night,
Since my three sons are well."
8. And she has made to them a bed,
She's made it large and wide,
And she's taen her mantle her about
Sat down at the bed-side.
* * * * *
9. Up then crew the red, red cock,
And up and crew the gray;
The eldest to the youngest said,
" 'Tis time we were away."

³ peasant. ⁴ storms. ⁵ dark. ⁶ birch. ⁷ trench. ⁸ furrow.

10. The cock he hadna craw'd but once,
And clappd his wings at a',
When the youngest to the eldest said,
"Brother, we must awa.
11. "The cock doth crawl, the day doth
daw,
The channerin¹ worm doth chide;
Gin² we be mist out o our place,
A sair pain we maun bide.
12. "Fare ye weel, my mother dear!
Fareweel to barn and byre!³
And fare ye weel, the bonny lass
That kindles my mother's fire!"

ROBIN HOOD AND GUY OF GISBORNE

1. When shawes⁴ beene sheene,⁵ and
shradds⁶ full fayre,
And leeves both large and long,
Itt is merry, walking in the fayre
fforrest,
To heare the small birds songe.
2. The woodweele⁷ sang, and wold not
cease,
Amongst the leaves a lyne:⁸
And it is by two wight⁹ yeomen,
By deare God, that I meane.
* * * * *
3. "Me thought they did mee beate
and binde,
And tooke my bowe mee froe;
If I bee Robin alive in this lande,
I'll be wrocken¹⁰ on both them
towe."
4. "Sweavens¹¹ are swift, master," quoth
John,
"As the wind that blowes ore a hill;
Ffor if itt be never soe lowde this
night,
To-morrow it may be still."
5. "Buske¹² yee, bowne¹³ yee, my merry
men all,
Ffor John shall goe with mee;
For I'll goe seeke yond wight yeomen
In greenwood where the¹⁴ bee."
6. The cast on their gowne of greene,
A shooting gone are they,
Untill they came to the merry green-
wood,
Where they had gladdest bee;
There were they ware of [a] wight
yeoman,
His body leaned to a tree.
7. A sword and a dagger he wore by his
side,
Had beene many a man's bane,
And he was cladd in his capull-hyde,¹⁵
Topp, and tayle, and mayne.
8. "Stand you still, master," quoth
Litle John,
"Under this trusty tree,
And I will goe to yond wight yeoman,
To know his meaning trulye."
9. "A, John, by me thou setts noe store,
And that's a ffarley¹⁶ thing;
How oft send I my men beffore,
And tarry my-selfe behinde?"
10. "It is noe cunning a knave to ken,
And a man but heare him speake;
And itt were not for bursting of my
bowe,
John, I wold thy head breake."
11. But often words they breeden bale;¹⁷
That parted Robin and John;
John is gone to Barn[e]sdale,
The gates¹⁸ he knowes eche one.
12. And when hee came to Barnesdale,
Great heavinesse there hee hadd;
He ffound two of his fellows
Were slaine both in a slade,¹⁹
13. And Scarlett a-ffoote flyinge was,
Over stockes and stone,
For the sheriffe with seven score men
Fast after him is gone.
14. "Yett one shoote I'll shoote," sayes
Litle John,
"With Crist his might and mayne;
I'll make yond fellow that flyes soe
fast
To be both glad and ffaine."

¹ impatient.² if.³ stable.⁴ thickets.⁵ beautiful.⁶ corpses.⁷ woodlark.⁸ of Linn ("a stock ballad locality").⁹ sturdy.¹⁰ avenged.¹¹ dreams.¹² make ready.¹³ dress yourselves.¹⁴ they.¹⁵ horse-hide. ¹⁶ wonderful. ¹⁷ evil. ¹⁸ ways. ¹⁹ valley.

15. John bent up a good veiwe¹ bow,
And ffitteled² him to shoote;
The bow was made of a tender bough,
And fell downe to his foote.
16. "Woe worth thee, wicked wood," sayd
Litle John,
"That ere thou grew on a tree!
Ffor this day thou art my bale,
My boote³ when thou shold bee!"
17. This shoote it was but looselye shott,
The arrowe flew in vaine,
And it mett one of the sheriffes men;
Good William a Trent was slaine.
18. It had beene better for William a
Trent
To hange upon a gallowe
Then for to lye in the greenwoode,
There slaine with an arrowe.
19. And it is sayd, when men be mett,
Six can doe more then three:
And they have tane Litle John,
And bound him ffast to a tree.
20. "Thou shalt be drawn by dale and
downe," quoth the sheriffe,
"And hanged hye on a hill;"
"But thou may flayle," quoth Litle
John,
"If itt be Christ's owne will."
21. Let us leave talking of Litle John,
For hee is bound fast to a tree,
And talke of Guy and Robin Hood
In the green woode where they bee.
22. How these two yeomen together they
mett,
Under the leaves of lyne,
To see what marchandise⁴ they made
Even at that same time.
23. "Good morrow, good fellow," quoth
Sir Guy;
"Good morrow, good ffellow," quoth
hee;
"Methinkes by this bow thou beares
in thy hand,
A good archer thou seems to bee."
24. "I am wilfull of my way," quoth Sir
Guye,
"And of my morning tyde:"
"I'le lead thee through the wood,"
quoth Robin,
"Good ffellow, I'le be thy guide."
25. "I seeke an outlaw," quoth Sir Guye,
"Men call him Robin Hood;
I had rather meet with him upon a day
Than forty pound of golde."
26. "If you tow mett, itt wold be seene
whether were better
Afore yee did part awaye;
Let us some other pastime find,
Good ffellow, I thee pray.
27. "Let us some other masteryes make,
And wee will walke in the woods
even;
Wee may chance mee[t] with Robin
Hooe
Att some unsett steven."⁵
28. They cutt them downe the summer
shroggs⁶
Which grew both under a bryar,
And sett them three score rood in
twinn,⁷
To shoote the prickes full neare.
29. "Leade on, good ffellow," sayd Sir
Guye,
"Lead on, I doe bidd thee:"
"Nay, by my faith," quoth Robin
Hood,
"The leader thou shalt bee."
30. The first good shoot that Robin ledd,
Did not shoote an inch the pricke
ffroe;
Guy was an archer good enough,
But he cold neere shoote soe.
31. The second shoote Sir Guy shott,
He shott within the garlande;
But Robin Hooe shott it better than
hee,
For he clove the good pricke-
wande.

¹ yew.² made ready.³ help.⁴ dealing.⁵ time not fixed.⁶ rods.⁷ apart.

32. "Gods blessing on thy heart!" sayes
Guye,
"Goode ffellow, thy shooting is
goode;
For an thy hart be as good as thy
hands,
Thou were better than Robin Hood.
33. "Tell me thy name, good ffellow,"
quoth Guy,
"Under the leaves of lyne:"
"Nay, by my faith," quoth good
Robin,
"Till thou have told me thine."
34. "I dwell by dale and downe," quoth
Guye,
"And I have done many a curst
turne;
And he that calles me by my right
name,
Calles me Guye of good Gysborne."
35. "My dwelling is in the wood," sayes
Robin;
"By thee I set right nought;
My name is Robin Hood of Barnes-
dale,
A ffellow thou has long sought."
36. He that had neither beene a kithe nor
kin
Might have seene a full fayre sight,
To see how together these yeomen
went,
With blades both browne and
bright;
37. To have seene how these yeomen to-
gether foug[ht]
Two howers of a summer's day;
Itt was neither Guy nor Robin Hood
That ffitled¹ them to flye away.
38. Robin was reacheles on² a roote,
And stumbled at that tyde,
And Guy was quicke and nimble
with-all,
And hitt him ore the left side.
39. "Ah, deere Lady!" sayd Robin
Hooode,
"Thou art both mother and may!"³
I thinke it was never mans destynye
To dye before his day."

¹ prepared.² careless of.³ maid.

40. Robin thought on Our Lady deere,
And soone leapt up againe,
And thus he came with an awkarde⁴
stroke;
Good Sir Guy hee has slayne.
41. He tooke Sir Guys head by the hayre,
And stuck itt on his bowes end:
"Thou hast beene traytor all thy liffe,
Which thing must have an ende."
42. Robin pulled forth an Irish kniffe,
And nicked Sir Guy in the fface,
That hee was never on a woman borne
Cold tell who Sir Guye was.
43. Saies, "Lye there, lye there, good Sir
Guye,
And with me be not wrothe;
If thou have had the worse stroakes at
my hand,
Thou shalt have the better cloathe."
44. Robin did off his gowne of greene,
Sir Guye hee did it throwe;
And hee put on that capull-hyde
That cladd him topp to toe.
45. "The bowe, the arrowes, and litle
horne,
And with me now I'le beare;
For now I will goe to Barne[s]dale,
To see how my men doe flare."
46. Robin sette Guyes horne to his mouth,
A lowd blast in it he did blow;
That beheard the sheriffe of Notting-
ham,
As he leaned under a lowe.⁵
47. "Hearken! hearken!" sayd the sheriffe,
"I heard noe tydings but good;
For yonder I heare Sir Guyes horne
blowe,
For he hath slaine Robin Hooode.
48. "For yonder I heare Sir Guyes horne
blow,
Itt blowes soe well in tyde,
For yonder comes that wighty yeo-
man,
Cladd in his capull-hyde.

⁴ backhanded.⁵ hill.

49. "Come hither, thou good Sir Guy,
Aske of mee what thou wilt have;"
"I'le none of thy gold," sayes Robin
Hood,
"Nor I'le none of itt have."
50. "But now I have slaine the master,"
he sayd,
"Let me goe strike the knave;
This is all the reward I aske,
Nor noe other will I have."
51. "Thou art a madman," said the
shiriffe,
"Thou sholdest have had a knights
flee;
Seeing thy asking [hath] beene soe
badd,
Well granted it shall be."
52. But Litle John heard his master
speake,
Well he knew that was his steven;¹
"Now shall I be loset," quoth Litle
John,
"With Christ's might in heaven."
53. But Robin hee hyed him towards Litle
John,
Hee thought hee wold loose him
belive;²
The sheriffe and all his companye
Fast after him did drive.
54. "Stand abacke! stand abacke!" sayd
Robin;
"Why draw you mee soe neere?
Itt was never the use in our countrye
One's shrift another shold heere."
55. But Robin pulled forth an Irysh kniffe,
And losed John hand and ffoote,
And gave him Sir Guyes bow in his
hand,
And bade it be his boote.³
56. But John tooke Guyes bow in his
hand—
His arrowes were rawstye⁴ by the
roote;
The sherriffe saw Litle John draw a
bow
And ffitte him to shoote. .

57. Towards his house in Nottingham
He fled ful fast away,
And soe did all his companye,
Not one behind did stay.
58. But he cold neither soe fast goe,
Nor away soe fast runn,
But Litle John, with an arrow broade,
Did cleave his heart in twinn.

ROBIN HOOD'S DEATH AND BURIAL

1. When Robin Hood and Little John
Down a down a down a down
Went oer yon bank of broom
Said Robin Hood bold to Little
John,
"We have shot for many a pound."
Hey, etc.
2. "But I am not able to shoot one shot
more,
My broad arrows will not flee;
But I have a cousin lives down below,
Please God, she will bleed me."
3. Now Robin he is to fair Kirkly gone,
As fast as he can win;
But before he came there, as we do
hear,
He was taken very ill.
4. And when he came to fair Kirkly-hall,
He knockd all at the ring,
But none was so ready as his cousin
herself
For to let bold Robin in.
5. "Will you please to sit down, cousin
Robin," she said,
"And drink some beer with me?"
"No, I will neither eat nor drink,
Till I am blooded by thee."
6. "Well, I have a room, cousin Robin,"
she said,
"Which you did never see,
And if you please to walk therein,
You blooded by me shall be."
7. She took him by the lily-white hand,
And led him to a private room,
And there she blooded bold Robin
Hood,
While one drop of blood would run
down.

¹ voice.² quickly.³ help.⁴ soiled.

8. She blooded him in a vein of the arm,
And locked him up in the room;
Then did he bleed all the live-long day,
Until the next day at noon.
9. He then bethought him of a casement
there,
Thinking for to get down;
But was so weak he could not leap,
He could not get him down.
10. He then bethought him of his bugle-
horn,
Which hung low down to his knee;
He set his horn unto his mouth,
And blew out weak blasts three.
11. Then Little John, when hearing him,
As he sat under a tree,
"I fear my master is now near dead,
He blows so wearily."
12. Then Little John to fair Kirkly is gone,
As fast as he can dree;
But when he came to Kirkly-hall,
He broke locks two or three:
13. Until he came bold Robin to see,
Then he fell on his knee;
"A boon, a boon," cries Little John,
"Master, I beg of thee."
14. "What is that boon," said Robin
Hood,
"Little John, [thou] begs of me?"
"It is to burn fair Kirkly-hall,
And all their nunnery."
15. "Now nay, now nay," quoth Robin
Hood,
"That boon I'll not grant thee;
I never hurt woman in all my life,
Nor men in woman's company."
16. "I never hurt fair maid in all my time,
Nor at mine end shall it be;
But give me my bent bow in my hand,
And a broad arrow I'll let flee,
And where this arrow is taken up,
There shall my grave digged be."
17. "Lay me a green sod under my head,
And another at my feet;

And lay my bent bow by my side,
Which was my music sweet;
And make my grave of gravel and
green,
Which is most right and meet.

18. "Let me have length and breadth
enough,
With a green sod under my head;
That they may say, when I am dead,
Here lies bold Robin Hood."
19. These words they readily granted him,
Which did bold Robin please:
And there they buried bold Robin
Hood,
Within the fair Kirkleys.

THE HUNTING OF THE CHEVIOT

1. The Persë owt off Northombarlonde,
and avowe to God mayd he
That he would hunte in the mown-
tayns
off Chyviat within days thre,
In the magger of¹ doughtë Dogles,
and all that ever with him be.
2. The fattiste hartes in all Cheviat
he sayd he wold kyll, and cary them
away:
"Be my feth," sayd the dougheti
Doglas agayn,
"I wyll let² that hontyng yf that I
may."
3. Then the Persë owt off Banborowe
cam,
with him a myghtee meany,³
With fifteen hondrith archares bold
off blood and bone;
the⁴ wear chosen owt of shyars thre.
4. This begane on a Monday at morn,
in Cheviat the hillys so he;⁵
The chylde may rue that ys unborn,
it wos the more pittë.
5. The dryvars thorowe the woodës went,
for to reas the dear;
Bomen byckarte⁶ uppone the bent⁷
with ther browd aros cleare.

¹ despite.
⁵ high.

² hinder.
⁶ hunted.

³ crowd.
⁷ field.

⁴ they.

6. Then the wyld¹ thorowe the woodës
went,
on every syde shear;²
Greahondës thorowe the grevis³
glent,⁴
for to kyll thear dear.
7. This begane in Chyviat the hyls
abone,⁵
yerly on a Monnyn-day;
Be that⁶ it drewe to the oware off
none,⁷
a hondrith fat hartës ded ther lay.
8. The⁸ blewe a mort⁹ uppone the bent,
the semblyde¹⁰ on sydis¹¹ shear;
To the quyrry then the Persë went,
to se the bryttlynge¹² off the deare.
9. He sayd, "It was the Duglas promys,
this day to met me hear;
But I wyste he wolde faylle, vera-
ment;"
a great oth the Persë swear.
10. At the laste a squyar off Northomber-
londe
lokyde at his hand full ny;
He was war a the doughetie Doglas
commynge,
with him a myghttë meany.
11. Both with spear, bylle, and brande,
yt was a myghtti sight to se;
Hardyar men, both off hart nor hande,
wear not in Cristiantë.
12. The wear twenti hondrith spear-men
good,
withoute any feale;
The wear borne along be the watter a
Twyde,
yth¹³ bowndës of Tividale.
13. "Leave of the brytlyng of the dear,"
he sayd,
"and to your boys¹⁴ lock ye tayk
good hede;
For never sithe ye wear on your
mothars borne
had ye never so mickle nede."
14. The dougheti Dogglas on a stede,
he rode alle his men beforne;
His armor glytteryde as dyd a glede;¹⁵
a boldar barne¹⁶ was never born.
15. "Tell me whos men ye ar," he says,
"or whos men that ye be:
Who gave youe leave to hunte in this
Chyviat chays,
in the spyt of myn and of me."
16. The first mane that ever him an
answear mayd,
yt was the good lord Persë:
"We wyll not tell the whoys men
we ar," he says,
"nor whos men that we be;
But we wyll hounte hear in this chays,
in the spyt of thyne and of the.
17. "The fattiste hartës in all Chyviat
we have kyld, and cast to carry
them away."
"Be my troth," sayd the doughetë
Dogglas agay[n],
"therfor the ton¹⁷ of us shall de this
day."
18. Then sayd the doughtë Doglas
unto the lord Persë:
"To kyll alle thes giltles men,
alas, it wear great pittë!
19. "But, Persë, thowe art a lord of lande,
I am a yerle callyd within my contrë;
Let all our men uppone a parti stande,
and do the battell off the and of
me."
20. "Nowe Cristes cors on his crowne,"
sayd the lord Persë,
"who-so-ever ther-to says nay!
Be my troth, doughttë Doglas," he
says,
"thow shalt never se that day,
21. "Nethar in Ynglonde, Skottlonde, nar
France,
nor for no man of a woman born,
But, and fortune be my chance,
I dar met him, on man for on."

¹ deer. ² several. ³ groves. ⁴ darted. ⁵ above.⁶ by the time that. ⁷ hour of noon. ⁸ they.⁹ a blast of the horn announcing the deer's death.¹⁰ met. ¹¹ hillsides. ¹² butchering. ¹³ in the. ¹⁴ bows.¹⁵ coal of fire.¹⁶ man.¹⁷ one.

22. Then bespayke a squyar off Northom-
barlonde,
Richard Wytharyngton was his
nam:
"It shall never be told in Sothe-
Ynglonde," he says,
"to Kyng Herry the Fourth for
sham.
23. "I wat youe byn great lordës twaw,
I am a poor squyar of lande:
I wylle never se my captayne fyght on
a fylde,
and stande my selffe and loocke on,
But whylle I may my weppone welde,
I wylle not [fayle] both hart and
hande."
24. That day, that day, that dredfull day!
the first fit¹ here I fynde;
And youe wyll here any mor a the
hountyng a the Chyviat,
yet ys ther mor behynde.
25. The Yngglyshe men hade ther bowys
yebent,
ther hartes wer good yenoughe;
The first off arros that the shote off,
seven skore spear-men the sloughe.²
26. Yet byddys the yerle Doglas uppon
the bent,
a captayne good yenoughe,
And that was sene verament,
for he wrought hom both woo and
wouche.³
27. The Dogglas partyd his ost in thre,
lyk a cheffe cheften off pryde;
With suar⁴ spears off myghttë tre,
the cum in on every syde:
28. Thrughe our Yngglyshe archery
gave many a wounde fulle wyde;
many a doughetë the garde⁵ to dy,
which ganyde them no pryde.
29. The Ynglyshe men let ther boÿs be,
and pulde owt brandes that wer
brighte;
It was a hevy syght to se
bryght swordes on basnites⁶ lyght.
30. Thorowe ryche male and myneyeple,⁷
many sterne⁸ the strocke done⁹
streght;
Many a freyke¹⁰ that was fulle fre,
ther undar foot dyd lyght.
31. At last the Duglas and the Persë met,
lyk to captayns of myght and of
mayne;
The swapte¹¹ togethar tylle the both
swat,¹²
with swordes that wear of fyn
myllan.¹³
32. Thes worthë freckys for to fyght,
ther-to the wear fulle fayne,
Tylle the bloode owte off thear
basnetes sprente
as ever dyd heal¹⁴ or ra[y]n.
33. "Yelde the, Persë," sayde the Doglas,
"and i feth I shalle the brynge
Wher thowe shalte have a yerls wagis
of Jamy our Skottish kyng.
34. "Thou shalte have thy ransom fre,
I hight¹⁵ the hear this thinge;
For the manfullyste man yet art
thowe
that ever I conqueryd in filde
fighttynge."
35. "Nay," sayd the lord Persë,
"I tolde it the beforen,
That I wolde never yeldyde be
to no man of a woman born."
36. With that ther cam an arrowe hastely,
forthe off a myghttë wane;¹⁶
Hit hathe strekene the yerle Duglas
in at the brest-bane.
37. Thorowe lyvar¹⁷ and longës bathe¹
the sharpe arrowe ys gane,
That never after in all his lyffe-days
he spayke mo wordës but ane:
That was, "Fyghte ye, my myrry
men, whyllys ye may,
for my lyff-days ben gan."
38. The Persë leanyde on his brande,
and sawe the Duglas de;
He tooke the dede mane by the hande,
and sayd, "Wo ys me for the!

¹ division of the story, chapter.² slew.³ harm.⁴ trusty.⁵ made.⁶ helmets.⁷ gauntlet.⁸ stern men.⁹ down.¹⁰ bold man.¹¹ smote.¹² sweated.¹³ Milan steel.¹⁴ hail.¹⁵ bid.¹⁶ number.¹⁷ liver.¹⁸ both.

SIR THOMAS MALORY (1400?-1470)

From LE MORTE DARTHUR

PREFACE OF WILLIAM CAXTON

After that I had accomplished and finished divers histories, as well of contemplation as of other historial and worldly acts of great conquerors and princes, and also certain books of ensamples and doctrine, many noble and divers gentlemen of this realm of England came and demanded me many and oftentimes, wherefore that I have not do made and imprint the noble history of the Saint Greal and of the [10 most renowned Christian king, first and chief of the three best Christian, and worthy, king Arthur, which ought most to be remembered among us Englishmen tofore all other Christian kings; for it is notoriously known through the universal world that there be nine worthy and the best that ever were, that is to wit three Paynims, three Jews, and three Christian men. As for the Paynims they were [20 tofore the Incarnation of Christ, which were named, the first Hector of Troy, of whom the history is come, both in ballad and in prose; the second Alexander the Great, and the third Julius Cæsar, Emperor of Rome, of whom the histories be well known and had. And as for the three Jews, which also were tofore the incarnation of our Lord, of whom the first was duke Joshua which brought the chil- [30 dren of Israel into the land of behest, the second David king of Jerusalem, and the third Judas Maccabæus. Of these three the Bible rehearseth all their noble histories and acts. And since the said incarnation have been three noble Christian men stilled and admitted through the universal world into the number of the nine best and worthy. Of whom was first the noble Arthur, whose noble acts I pur- [40 pose to write in this present book here following. The second was Charlemain, or Charles the Great, of whom the history is had in many places, both in French and in English. And the third and last was Godfrey of Boloine, of whose acts and life I made a book unto the excellent prince and king of noble memory, king Edward

the Fourth. The said noble gentlemen instantly required me to imprint the his- [50 tory of the said noble king and conqueror king Arthur, and of his knights, with the history of the Saint Greal, and of the death and ending of the said Arthur; affirming that I ought rather to imprint his acts and noble feats, than of Godfrey of Boloine, or any of the other eight, considering that he was a man born within this realm, and king and emperor of the same; and that there be in French divers and [60 many noble volumes of his acts, and also of his knights. To whom I answered, that divers men hold opinion that there was no such Arthur, and that all such books as been made of him be feigned and fables, because that some chronicles make of him no mention, nor remember him nothing, nor of his knights. Whereto they answered, and one in special said, that in him that should say or think that there [70 was never such a king called Arthur, might well be aretted great folly and blindness. For he said that there were many evidences of the contrary. First ye may see his sepulchre in the monastery of Glastingbury. And also in *Polichronicon*, in the fifth book the sixth chapter, and in the seventh book the twenty-third chapter, where his body was buried, and after found, and translated into the [80 said monastery. Ye shall see also in the history of Bochas in his book *De Casu Principum* part of his noble acts, and also of his fall. Also Galfridus in his British book recounteth his life; and in divers places of England many remembrances be yet of him and shall remain perpetually, and also of his knights. First in the abbey of Westminster, at Saint Edward's shrine, remaineth the print of his seal in red [90 wax closed in beryl, in which is written *Patricius Arthurus, Britannie, Gallie, Germanie, Dacie, Imperator*. Item in the castle of Dover ye may see Gawaine's skull and Cradok's mantle: at Winchester the Round Table: in other places Launcelot's sword and many other things. Then all these things considered, there can no man reasonably gainsay but that there was a king of this land named Arthur. [100 For in all places, Christian and heathen, he is reputed and taken for one of the

nine worthy, and the first of the three Christian men. And also he is more spoken of beyond the sea, more books made of his noble acts, than there be in England, as well in Dutch, Italian, Spanish, and Greekish, as in French. And yet of record remain in witness of him in Wales, in the town of Camelot, the great stones [110 and the marvelous works of iron lying under the ground, and royal vaults, which divers now living have seen. Wherefore it is a marvel why he is no more renowned in his own country, save only it accordeth to the Word of God, which saith that no man is accepted for a prophet in his own country.

Then all these things aforesaid alleged, I could not well deny but that there [120 was such a noble king named Arthur, and reputed one of the nine worthy, and first and chief of the Christian men. And many noble volumes be made of him and of his noble knights in French, which I have seen and read beyond the sea, which be not had in our maternal tongue. But in Welsh be many and also in French, and some in English, but nowhere nigh all. Wherefore, such as have late been [130 drawn out briefly into English I have after the simple conning that God hath sent to me, under the favor and correction of all noble lords and gentlemen, enprised to imprint a book of the noble histories of the said king Arthur, and of certain of his knights, after a copy unto me delivered, which copy Sir Thomas Malorye did take out of certain books of French, and reduced it into English. And I, accord- [140 ing to my copy, have done set it in print, to the intent that noble men may see and learn the noble acts of chivalry, the gentle and virtuous deeds that some knights used in those days, by which they came to honor, and how they that were vicious were punished and oft put to shame and rebuke; humbly beseeching all noble lords and ladies, with all other estates of what estate or degree they been of, that [150 shall see and read in this said book and work, that they take the good and honest acts in their remembrance, and to follow the same. Wherein they shall find many joyous and pleasant histories, and noble and renowned acts of humanity, gentle-

ness, and chivalry. For herein may be seen noble chivalry, courtesy, humanity, friendliness, hardiness, love, friendship, cowardice, murder, hate, virtue, and [160 sin. Do after the good and leave the evil, and it shall bring you to good fame and renown. And for to pass the time this book shall be pleasant to read in; but for to give faith and belief that all is true that is contained herein, ye be at your liberty; but all is written for our doctrine, and for to beware that we fall not to vice nor sin, but to exercise and follow virtue, by the which we may come and at- [170 tain to good fame and renown in this life, and after this short and transitory life to come unto everlasting bliss in heaven; the which He grant us that reigneth in heaven, the blessed Trinity. Amen.

BOOK XXI

CHAPTER IV

HOW BY MISADVENTURE OF AN ADDER THE
BATTLE BEGAN, WHERE MORDRED WAS
SLAIN, AND ARTHUR HURT TO THE DEATH

Then were they condescended that king Arthur and Sir Mordred should meet betwixt both their hosts, and every each of them should bring fourteen persons. And they came with this word unto Arthur. Then said he, I am glad that this is done. And so he went into the field. And when Arthur should depart, he warned all his host that and they see any sword drawn, Look ye come on fiercely, and slay [10 that traitor, Sir Mordred, for I in no wise trust him. In like wise Sir Mordred warned his host that, And ye see any sword drawn, look that ye come on fiercely, and so slay all that ever before you standeth: for in no wise I will not trust for this treaty, for I know well my father will be avenged upon me. And so they met as their pointment was, and so they were agreed and accorded thoroughly; and [20 wine was fetched, and they drank. Right so came an adder out of a little heath bush, and it stung a knight on the foot. And when the knight felt him stungen, he looked down and saw the adder, and then he drew his sword to slay the adder, and thought of none other harm. And

when the host on both parties saw that sword drawn, then they blew beames, trumpets, and horns, and shouted [30 grimly. And so both hosts dressed them together. And king Arthur took his horse, and said, Alas, this unhappy day, and so rode to his party; and Sir Mordred in like wise. And never was there seen a more dolefuller battle in no Christian land. For there was but rushing and riding, foining and striking, and many a grim word was there spoken either to other, and many a deadly stroke. But ever king Arthur [40 rode throughout the battle of Sir Mordred many times, and did full nobly as a noble king should, and at all times he fainted never. And Sir Mordred that day put him in devoir, and in great peril. And thus they fought all the long day, and never stinted, till the noble knights were laid to the cold ground, and ever they fought still, till it was near night, and by that time was there an hundred thousand laid [50 dead upon the down. Then was Arthur wroth out of measure, when he saw his people so slain from him.

Then the king looked about him, and then was he ware of all his host, and of all his good knights, were left no more on live but two knights, that was Sir Lucan the Butler, and his brother Sir Bedivere, and they were full sore wounded. Jesu mercy, said the king, where are all my [60 noble knights becomen? Alas, that ever I should see this doleful day. For now, said Arthur, I am come to mine end. But would to God that I wist where were that traitor Sir Mordred, that hath caused all this mischief. Then was king Arthur ware where Sir Mordred leaned upon his sword among a great heap of dead men. Now give me my spear, said Arthur unto Sir Lucan, for yonder I have espied the [70 traitor that all this woe hath wrought. Sir, let him be, said Sir Lucan, for he is unhappy; and if ye pass this unhappy day, ye shall be right well revenged upon him. Good lord, remember ye of your night's dream, and what the spirit of Sir Gawaine told you this night, yet God of his great goodness hath preserved you hitherto. Therefore, for God's sake, my lord, leave off by this. For, blessed be God, ye [80 have won the field, for here we be three on

live, and with Sir Mordred is none on live. And if ye leave off now, this wicked day of destiny is past. Tide me death, betide me life, saith the king, now I see him yonder alone, he shall never escape mine hands, for at a better avail shall I never have him. God speed you well, said Sir Bedivere.

Then the king gat his spear in both [90 his hands, and ran toward Sir Mordred, crying, Traitor, now is thy death-day come. And when Sir Mordred heard Sir Arthur, he ran until him with his sword drawn in his hand. And then king Arthur smote Sir Mordred under the shield, with a foin of his spear throughout the body more than a fathom. And when Sir Mordred felt that he had his death's wound, he thrust himself, with the [100 might that he had, up to the bur of king Arthur's spear. And right so he smote his father Arthur with his sword holden in both his hands, on the side of the head, that the sword pierced the helmet and the brain-pan, and therewithal Sir Mordred fell stark dead to the earth. And the noble Arthur fell in a swoon to the earth, and there he swooned oft-times. And Sir Lucan the Butler, and Sir Bedivere, [110 oft-times heaved him up, and so weakly they led him betwixt them both, to a little chapel not far from the sea side. And when the king was there, he thought him well eased.

Then heard they people cry in the field. Now go, thou, Sir Lucan, said the king, and do me to wit what betokens that noise in the field. So Sir Lucan departed, for he was grievously wounded in [120 many places. And so as he went, he saw and hearkened by the moonlight, how the pillars and robbers were come into the field to pill and to rob many a full noble knight of brooches and beads, of many a good ring, and of many a rich jewel; and who that were not dead all out, there they slew them for their harness and their riches. When Sir Lucan understood this work, he came to the king as soon as [130 he might, and told him all what he had heard and seen. Therefore by mine advice, said Sir Lucan, it is best that we bring you to some town. I would it were so, said the king.

CHAPTER V

HOW KING ARTHUR COMMANDED TO CAST
HIS SWORD EXCALIBUR INTO THE WATER,
AND HOW HE WAS DELIVERED TO LADIES
IN A BARGE

But I may not stand, mine head works so. Ah, Sir Launcelot, said king Arthur, this day have I sore missed thee. Alas, that ever I was against thee, for now have I my death, whereof Sir Gawaine me warned in my dream. Then Sir Lucan took up the king the one part, and Sir Bedivere the other part, and in the lifting the king swooned, and Sir Lucan fell in a swoon with the lift, that the part of [10 his bowels fell out of his body, and therewith the noble knight's heart brast. And when king Arthur came to himself again, he beheld Sir Lucan, how he lay foaming at the mouth, and part of his bowels lay at his feet. Alas, said the king, this is unto me a full heavy sight, to see this noble duke so die for my sake, for he would have holpen me that had more need of help than I. Alas, he would not com- [20 plain him, his heart was so set to help me. Now Jesu have mercy upon his soul. Then Sir Bedivere wept for the death of his brother. Leave this mourning and weeping, said the king, for all this will not avail me; for, wit thou well, and I might live myself the death of Sir Lucan would grieve me evermore; but my time hieth fast, said the king. Therefore, said Arthur, take thou Excalibur, my good [30 sword, and go with it to yonder water side, and when thou comest there, I charge thee throw my sword in that water, and come again, and tell me what thou there seest. My lord, said Bedivere, your commandment shall be done, and lightly bring you word again.

So Sir Bedivere departed, and by the way he beheld that noble sword, that the pommel and the haft were all of pre- [40 cious stones; and then he said to himself, If I throw this rich sword in the water, thereof shall never come good, but harm and loss. And then Sir Bedivere hid Excalibur under a tree. And as soon as he might he came again unto the king, and said he had been at the water, and had thrown the sword into the water.

What sawest thou there? said the king. Sir, he said, I saw nothing but waves [50 and winds. That is untruly said of thee, said the king; therefore go thou lightly again, and do my command, as thou art to me lief and dear, spare not, but throw it in. Then Sir Bedivere returned again, and took the sword in his hand; and then him thought sin and shame to throw away that noble sword; and so eft he hid the sword, and returned again, and told to the king that he had been at the [60 water, and done his commandment. What saw thou there? said the king. Sir, he said, I saw nothing but the waters wap and the waves wan. Ah traitor, untrue, said king Arthur, now hast thou betrayed me twice. Who would have wend that thou that hast been to me so lief and dear, and thou art named a noble knight, and would betray me for the richness of the sword. But now go again [70 lightly, for thy long tarrying putteth me in great jeopardy of my life, for I have taken cold. And but if thou do now as I bid thee, if ever I may see thee, I shall slay thee with mine own hands, for thou wouldest for my rich sword see me dead.

Then Sir Bedivere departed, and went to the sword, and lightly took it up, and went to the water side; and there he bound the girdle about the hilts, and [80 then he threw the sword as far into the water as he might; and there came an arm and an hand above the water, and met it, and caught it, and so shook it thrice and brandished, and then vanished away the hand with the sword in the water. So Sir Bedivere came again to the king, and told him what he saw. Alas, said the king, help me hence, for I dread me I have tarried over long. Then Sir Bedivere [90 took the king upon his back, and so went with him to that water side. And when they were at the water side, even fast by the bank hove a little barge, with many fair ladies in it, and among them all was a queen, and all they had black hoods, and all they wept and shrieked when they saw king Arthur. Now put me into the barge, said the king; and so he did softly. And there received him three queens with [100 great mourning, and so they set him down, and in one of their laps king Arthur

laid his head. And then that queen said, Ah, dear brother, why have ye tarried so long from me? Alas, this wound on your head hath caught over-much cold. And so then they rowed from the land, and Sir Bedivere beheld all those ladies go from him. Then Sir Bedivere cried, Ah, my lord Arthur, what shall become of [110 me, now ye go from me, and leave me here alone among mine enemies? Comfort thyself, said the king, and do as well as thou mayest, for in me is no trust for to trust in. For I will into the vale of Avilion to heal me of my grievous wound. And if thou hear never more of me, pray for my soul. But ever the queens and the ladies wept and shrieked, that it was pity to hear. And as soon as Sir Bedi- [120 vere had lost the sight of the barge, he wept and wailed, and so took the forest, and so he went all that night, and in the morning he was ware betwixt two holts hoar, of a chapel and an hermitage.

CHAPTER VI

HOW SIR BEDIVERE FOUND HIM ON THE MORROW DEAD IN AN HERMITAGE, AND HOW HE ABODE THERE WITH THE HERMIT

Then was Sir Bedivere glad, and thither he went; and when he came into the chapel, he saw where lay an hermit groveling on all four, there fast by a tomb was new graven. When the hermit saw Sir Bedivere he knew him well, for he was but little before bishop of Canterbury, that Sir Mordred banished. Sir, said Sir Bedivere, what man is there interred that ye pray so fast for? Fair son, [10 said the hermit, I wot not verily, but by deeming. But this night, at midnight, here came a number of ladies, and brought hither a dead corpse, and prayed me to bury him; and here they offered an hundred tapers, and gave me an hundred besants. Alas, said Sir Bedivere, that was my lord king Arthur, that here lieth buried in this chapel. Then Sir Bedivere swooned, and when he awoke he prayed [20 the hermit he might abide with him still there, to live with fasting and prayers. For from hence will I never go, said Sir Bedivere, by my will, but all the days of

my life here to pray for my lord Arthur. Ye are welcome to me, said the hermit, for I know ye better than ye ween that I do. Ye are the bold Bedivere, and the full noble duke Sir Lucan the Butler was your brother. Then Sir Bedivere told [30 the hermit all as ye have heard tofore. So there bode Sir Bedivere with the hermit that was tofore bishop of Canterbury, and there Sir Bedivere put upon him poor clothes, and served the hermit full lowly in fasting and in prayers.

Thus of Arthur I find never more written in books that be authorized, nor more of the certainty of his death heard I never tell. [40

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CHAPTER VII

OF THE OPINION OF SOME MEN OF THE DEATH OF KING ARTHUR; AND HOW QUEEN GUENEVER MADE HER A NUN IN ALMESBURY

Yet some men say in many parts of England that king Arthur is not dead, but had by the will of our Lord Jesu in another place. And men say that he shall come again, and he shall win the holy cross. I will not say it shall be so, but rather I will say, here in this world he changed his life. But many men say that there is written upon his tomb this verse: *Hic jacet Arthurus, Rex quondam, Rex- [10 que futurus.* Thus leave I here Sir Bedivere with the hermit, that dwelled that time in a chapel beside Glastonbury, and there was his hermitage. And so they lived in their prayers and fastings, and great abstinence.

And when queen Guenever understood that king Arthur was slain, and all the noble knights, Sir Mordred and all the remnant, then the queen stole away, [20 and five ladies with her, and so she went to Almesbury, and there she let make herself a nun, and wore white clothes and black, and great penance she took, as ever did sinful lady in this land, and never creature could make her merry, but lived in fasting, prayers, and alms-deeds, that all manner of people marveled how virtuously she was changed.

* * * * *

THE ELIZABETHAN AGE

EDMUND SPENSER (1552?-1599)

THE FAERIE QUEENE

A LETTER OF THE AUTHORS,

Expounding his whole intention in the course of this worke: which, for that it giveth great light to the reader, for the better understanding is hereunto annexed.

To the Right Noble and Valorous

SIR WALTER RALEIGH, KNIGHT;

Lord Wardein of the Stanneryes, and Her Maiesties Liefetenaunt of the County of Cornewayll.

Sir, knowing how doubtfully all allegories may be construed, and this booke of mine, which I have entituled the *Faery Queene*, being a continued allegory, or darke conceit, I haue thought good, as well for avoyding of gealous opinions and misconstructions, as also for your better light in reading thereof, (being so by you commanded,) to discover unto you the general intention and meaning, which [10 in the whole course thereof I have fashioned, without expressing of any particular purposes, or by accidents therein occasioned. The generall end therefore of all the booke is to fashion a gentleman or noble person in vertuous and gentle discipline: which for that I conceived shoulde be most plausible and pleasing, being coloured with an historicall fiction, the which the most part of men delight to [20 read, rather for variety of matter then for profite of the ensample, I chose the historye of King Arthure, as most fitte for the excellency of his person, being made famous by many men's former workes, and also furthest from the daunger of envy, and suspition of present time. In which I have followed all the antique Poets historicall: first Homere, who in the Persons of Agamemnon and Ulys- [30

ses hath ensampled a good governour and a vertuous man, the one in his Ilias, the other in his Odysseis; then Virgil, whose like intention was to doe in the person of Aeneas; after him Ariosto comprised them both in his Orlando: and lately Tasso dis-severed them againe, and formed both parts in two persons, namely that part which they in Philosophy call Ethice, or vertues of a private man, coloured in [40 his Rinaldo; the other named Politice in his Godfredo. By ensample of which excellent poets, I labour to pourtraict in Arthure, before he was king, the image of a brave knight, perfected in the twelve private morall vertues, as Aristotle hath devised; the which is the purpose of these first twelve bookes: which if I finde to be well accepted, I may be perhaps encouraged to frame the other part of polliticke [50 vertues in his person, after that hee came to be king:

To some, I know, this methode will seeme displeasaunt, which had rather have good discipline delivered plainly in way of precepts, or sermoned at large, as they use, then thus clowdily enwrapped in Allegoricall devises. But such, me seeme, should be satisfide with the use of these dayes, seeing all things accounted by [60 their showes, and nothing esteemed of, that is not delightfull and pleasing to commune sence. For this cause is Xenophon preferred before Plato, for that the one, in the exquisite depth of his judgement, formed a commune welth, such as it should be; but the other in the person of Cyrus, and the Persians, fashioned a government, such as might best be: so much more profitable and gratious is [70 doctrine by ensample, then by rule. So haue I laboured to doe in the person of Arthure: whome I conceive, after his long education by Timon, to whom he was by Merlin delivered to be brought up, so soone as he was borne of the Lady Igrayne, to have seene in a dream or vision the Faery Queene, with whose

excellent beauty ravished, he awaking resolved to seeke her out; and so being [80 by Merlin armed, and by Timon thoroughly instructed, he went to seeke her forth in Faerye land. In that Faery Queene I meane glory in my generall intention, but in my particular I conceive the most excellent and glorious person of our soveraine the Queene, and her kingdome in Faery land. And yet, in some places els, I doe otherwise shadow her. For considering she beareth two persons, the [90 one of a most royall Queene or Empresse, the other of a most vertuous and beautifull Lady, this latter part in some places I doe expresse, in Belpheobe, fashioning her name according to your owne excellent concept of Cynthia, (Phoebe and Cynthia being both names of Diana.) So in the person of Prince Arthure I sette forth magnificence in particular, which vertue, for that (according to Aristotile and [100 the rest) it is the perfection of all the rest, and containeth in it them all, therefore in the whole course I mention the deedes of Arthure applyable to that vertue, which I write of in that booke. But of the xii. other vertues, I make xii. other knights the patrones, for the more variety of the history: of which these three bookes contain three. The first of the knight of the Redcrosse, in whome I expresse [110 holynes: The seconde of Sir Guyon, in whome I sette forth temperaunce: The third of Britomartis, a lady knight, in whome I picture chastity. But, because the beginning of the whole worke seemeth abrupte, and as depending upon other antecedents, it needs that ye know the occasion of these three knights' severall adventures. For the methode of a poet historical is not such, as of an his- [120 toriographer. For an historiographer discourseth of affayres orderly as they were donne, accounting as well the times as the actions; but a poet thrusteth into the midst, even where it most concerneth him, and there recouring to the thinges forepaste, and divining of thinges to come, maketh a pleasing analysis of all.

The beginning therefore of my history, if it were to be told by an historiog- [130 rapher, should be the twelfth booke, which is the last; where I devise that the Faery

Queene kept her annuall feaste xii. dayes; upon which xii. severall dayes, the occasions of the xii. severall adventures hapned, which, being undertaken by xii. severall knights, are in these xii. books severally handled and discoursed. The first was this. In the beginning of the feast, there presented him selfe a tall clownishe [140 younge man, who, falling before the Queene of Faeries, desired a boone (as the manner then was) which during that feast she might not refuse: which was that hee might have the atchievement of any adventure, which during that feaste should happen: that being graunted, he rested him on the floore, unfitte through his rusticity for a better place. Soone after entred a faire ladye in mourning [150 weedes, riding on a white asse, with a dwarfe behind her leading a warlike steed, that bore the armes of a knight, and his speare in the dwarfes hand. Shee, falling before the Queene of Faeries, complayned that her father and mother, an ancient king and queene, had bene by an huge dragon many years shut up in a brasen castle, who thence suffred them not to yssew; and therefore besought the [160 Faery Queene to assygne her some one of her knights to take on him that explot. Presently that clownish person, upstarting, desired that adventure: whereat the Queene much wondering, and the lady much gainesaying, yet he earnestly importuned his desire. In the end the lady told him, that unlesse that armour which she brought, would serve him (that is, the armour of a Christian man speci- [170 fied by Saint Paul, vi. Ephes.) that he could not succeed in that enterprise: which being forthwith put upon him, with dewe furnitures thereunto, he seemed the goodliest man in al that company, and was well liked of the lady. And eftesoones taking on him knighthood, and mounting on that straunge courser, he went forth with her on that adventure: where be- [180 ginneth the first booke, viz.

A gentle knight was pricking on the playne, etc.

The second day there came in a palmer, bearing an infant with bloody hands, whose parents he complained to have

bene slayn by an enchaunteresse called Acrasia; and therefore craved of the Faery Queene, to appoint him some knight to performe that adventure; which being assigned to Sir Guyon, he presently went forth with that same palmer: [190 which is the beginning of the second booke, and the whole subject thereof. The third day there came in a groome, who complained before the Faery Queene, that a vile enchaunter, called Busirane, had in hand a most faire lady, called Amoretta, whom he kept in most grievous torment, because she would not yield him the pleasure of her body. Whereupon Sir Scudamour, the lover of that lady, [200 presently tooke on him that adventure. But being unable to performe it by reason of the hard enchauntments, after long sorrow, in the end met with Britomartis, who succoured him, and reskewed his loue.

But by occasion hereof many other adventures are intermeddled; but rather as accidents then intendments: as the love of Britomart, the overthrow of Marinell, [210 the misery of Florimell, the vertuousness of Belphebe, the lasciviousnes of Hellenora, and many the like.

Thus much, Sir, I have briefly overronne, to direct your understanding to the welhead of the history, that from thence gathering the whole intention of the conceit ye may, as in a handfull, gripe al the discourse, which otherwise may happily seeme tedious and confused. So, humbly [220 craving the continuance of your honorable favour towards me, and th' eternall establishment of your happines, I humbly take leave.

23. January, 1589.

Yours most humbly affectionate,
ED. SPENSER.

From BOOK I, CANTO I

The patrone of true Holinesse
Foule Errour doth defeate:
Hypocrisie, him to entrappe,
Doth to his home entreate.

I

A gentle knight was pricking¹ on the plaine,
Ycladd in mightie armes and silver shielde,

¹ spurring, riding.

Wherein old dints of deepe woundes did
remaiue,
The cruell markes of many a bloody fiede;
Yet armes till that time did he never
wield:
His angry steede did chide his foming
bitt,⁶
As much disdayning to the curbe to
yield:
Full jolly² knight he seemd, and faire did
sitt,
As one for knightly giusts³ and fierce en-
counters fitt.

II

But on his brest a bloodie crosse he bore, 10
The deare remembrance of his dying
Lord,
For whose sweete sake that glorious badge
he wore,
And dead as living ever him ador'd:
Upon his shield the like was also scor'd,
For soveraine hope, which in his helpe he
had:¹⁵
Right faithfull true he was in deede and
word,
But of his cheere⁴ did seeme too solemne
sad;
Yet nothing did he dread, but ever was
ydrad.⁵

III

Upon a great adventure he was bond,⁶
That greatest Gloriana to him gave, 20
That greatest glorious queene of Faery
Lond,
To winne him worshippe, and her grace to
have,
Which of all earthly thinges he most did
crave;
And ever as he rode his hart did earne⁷
To prove his puissance in battell brave 25
Upon his foe, and his new force to learne
Upon his foe, a dragon horrible and
stearne.

IV

A lovely ladie rode him faire beside,
Upon a lowly asse more white then snow,
Yet she much whiter, but the same did
hide³⁰
Under a vele, that wimpeld⁸ was full low,

² gallant.

³ countenance, expression of his face.

⁶ bound.

⁷ yearn.

³ jousts.

⁵ dreaded.

⁸ pleated.

And over all a blacke stole shee did throw:
As one that inly mournd, so was she sad,
And heavie sate upon her palfrey slow:
Seemed in heart some hidden care she had;
And by her in a line a milkewhite lambe
she lad. 36

v

So pure and innocent, as that same lambe,
She was in life and every vertuous lore,
And by descent from royall lynage came
Of ancient kinges and queenes, that had of
yore 40
Their scepters stretcht from east to west-
erne shore,
And all the world in their subjection held,
Till that infernall feend with foule uprore
Forwasted¹ all their land, and them expeld:
Whom to avenge, she had this knight from
far compeld.² 45

vi

Behind her farre away a dwarfe did lag,
That lasie seemd, in being ever last,
Or wearied with bearing of her bag
Of needments at his backe. Thus as they
past,
The day with cloudes was suddeine over-
cast, 50
And angry Jove an hideous storme of raine
Did poure into his lemans³ lap so fast,
That everie wight⁴ to shrowd⁵ it did con-
strain,
And this faire couple eke⁶ to shroud them-
selves were fain.

vii

Enforst to seeke some covert nigh at hand,
A shadie grove not farr away they spide, 56
That promist ayde the tempest to with-
stand:
Whose loftie trees, yclad with sommers
pride,
Did spred so broad, that heavens light did
hide,
Not perceable with power of any starr; 60
And all within were pathes and alleies
wide,
With footing worne, and leading inward
farr:
Faire harbour that them seemes, so in they
entred ar.

¹ utterly laid waste.³ loved one's, i. e. the earth's,
⁵ shelter.² summoned.⁴ person.⁶ also.

VIII

And forth they passe, with pleasure for-
ward led,
Joying to heare the birdes sweete har-
mony, 65
Which, therein shrouded from the tempest
dred,
Seemed in their song to scorne the cruell
sky.
Much can⁷ they praise the trees so
straight and hy,
The sayling⁸ pine, the cedar proud and
tall,
The vine-propp elme, the poplar never
dry, 70
The builder⁹ oake, sole king of forrests all,
The aspine good for staves, the cypresse
funerall,

IX

The laurell, meed of mightie conquerours
And poets sage, the firre that weepeth
still,
The willow worne of forlorne paramours,¹⁰
The eugh¹¹ obedient to the benders will, 76
The birch for shaftes, the sawle for the
mill,
The mirrhe sweete bleeding in the bitter
wound,
The warlike beech, the ash for nothing ill,
The fruitfull olive, and the platane¹²
round, 80
The carver holme,¹³ the maple seeldom
inward sound.

X

Led with delight, they thus beguile the
way,
Untill the blustering storme is overblowne;
When, weening to returne whence they did
stray,
They cannot finde that path, which first
was showne, 85
But wander too and fro in waies un-
knowne,
Furthest from end then, when they nearest
weene,
That makes them doubt, their wits be not
their owne:
So many pathes, so many turnings seene,
That which of them to take, in diverse
doubt they been. 90

⁷ did.⁸ used for ship timber.⁹ used for building.¹⁰ lovers. ¹¹ yew.¹² plane.¹³ a kind of oak, used for wood carvings.

XI

At last resolving forward still to fare,
 Till that some end they finde, or in or out,
 That path they take, that beaten seemd
 most bare,
 And like to lead the labyrinth about;¹
 Which when by tract² they hunted had
 throughout, 95
 At length it brought them to a hollowe
 cave,
 Amid the thickest woods. The champion
 stout
 Eftsoones³ dismounted from his courser
 brave,
 And to the dwarfe a while his needlesse
 spere he gave.

XII

"Be well aware," quoth then that ladie
 milde, 100
 "Least suddaine mischief ye too rash pro-
 voke:
 The danger hid, the place unknowne and
 wilde,
 Breedes dreadfull doubts: oft fire is with-
 out smoke,
 And perill without show: therefore your
 stroke,
 Sir knight, with-hold, till further tryall
 made." 105
 "Ah, ladie," sayd he, "shame were to re-
 voke
 The forward footing for an hidden shade:
 Vertue gives her selfe light, through
 darknesse for to wade."⁴

XIII

"Yea, but," quoth she, "the perill of this
 place
 I better wot then you; though nowe too
 late 110
 To wish you backe returne with foule dis-
 grace,
 Yet wisdomes warnes, whilst foot is in the
 gate,⁵
 To stay the steppe, ere forced to retrate.
 This is the wandering wood,⁶ this Errours
 den,
 A monster vile, whom God and man does
 hate: 115

Therefore I read⁷ beware." "Fly, fly!"
 quoth then
 The fearefull dwarfe: "this is no place for
 living men."

XIV

But full of fire and greedy hardiment,⁸
 The youthfull knight could not for ought
 be staide,
 But forth unto the darksom hole he went,
 And looked in: his glistring armor made 121
 A litle glooming light, much like a shade,
 By which he saw the ugly monster plaine,
 Halfe like a serpent horribly displaide,
 But th' other halfe did womans shape re-
 taine, 125
 Most lothsom, filthie, foule, and full of vile
 disdaine.⁹

* * * * *

XXVII

His lady, seeing all that chaunst, from
 farre, 235
 Approcht in hast to greet his victorie,
 And saide, "Faire knight, borne under
 happie starre,
 Who see your vanquisht foes before you
 lye,
 Well worthie be you of that armory,¹⁰
 Wherein ye have great glory wonne this
 day, 240
 And proov'd your strength on a strong eni-
 mie,
 Your first adventure: many such I pray,
 And henceforth ever wish that like succeed
 it may."

XXVIII

Then mounted he upon his steede againe,
 And with the lady backward sought to
 wend; 245
 That path he kept which beaten was most
 plaine,
 Ne ever would to any by way bend,
 But still did follow one unto the end,
 The which at last out of the wood them
 brought.
 So forward on his way (with God to frend)
 He passed forth, and new adventure
 sought: 251
 Long way he traveiled, before he heard of
 ought.

¹ out of.
⁵ way.

² trace.

³ forthwith. ⁴ walk, go.
⁶ wood of wandering.

⁷ advise.
⁹ loathsomeness.

⁸ impetuous hardihood.
¹⁰ armor.

XXIX

At length they chaunst to meet upon the way
 An aged sire, in long blacke weedes¹
 yclad,
 His feete all bare, his beard all hoarie
 gray,
 And by his belte his booke he hanging had;²⁵⁵
 Sober he seemde, and very sagely sad,
 And to the ground his eyes were lowly
 bent,
 Simple in shew, and voide of malice bad,
 And all the way he prayed as he went,²⁶⁰
 And often knockt his brest, as one that did
 repent.

XXX

He faire the knight saluted, louting² low,
 Who faire him quited,³ as that courteous
 was;
 And after asked him, if he did know
 Of strange adventures, which abroad did
 pas.²⁶⁵
 "Ah! my dear sonne," quoth he, "how
 should, alas!
 Silly⁴ old man, that lives in hidden cell,
 Bidding⁵ his beades all day for his trespas,
 Tydings of warre and worldly trouble tell?
 With holy father sits⁶ not with such
 thinges to mell.²⁷⁰

XXXI

"But if of daunger, which hereby doth
 dwell,
 And homebredd evil ye desire to heare,
 Of a straunge man I can you tidings tell,
 That wasteth all his countrie farre and
 neare."
 "Of such," saide he, "I chiefly doe in-
 quere,²⁷⁵
 And shall you well rewarde to shew the
 place,
 In which that wicked wight his dayes doth
 weare:
 For to all knighthood it is foule disgrace,
 That such a cursed creature lives so long a
 space."

XXXII

"Far hence," quoth he, "in wastfull wil-
 dernesses,²⁸⁰
 His dwelling is, by which no living wight

May ever passe, but thorough great dis-
 tresse."

"Now," saide the ladie, "draweth toward
 night,

And well I wote, that of your later fight
 Ye all forwearied be: for what so strong,²⁸⁵
 But, wanting rest, will also want of might?
 The Sunne, that measures heaven all day
 long,

At night doth baite⁸ his steedes the ocean
 waves emong.

XXXIII

"Then with the Sunne take, sir, your
 timely rest,

And with new day new worke at once be-
 gin:²⁹⁰

Untroubled night, they say, gives counsell
 best."

"Right well, sir knight, ye have advised
 bin,"

Quoth then that aged man; "the way to
 win

Is wisely to advise:⁹ now day is spent;
 Therefore with me ye may take up your
 in²⁹⁵

For this same night." The knight was
 well content:

So with that godly father to his home they
 went.

XXXIV

A litle lowly hermitage it was,
 Downe in a dale, hard by a forests side,
 Far from resort of people, that did pas³⁰⁰
 In traveill to and froe: a litle wyde¹⁰
 There was an holy chappell edifyde,¹¹
 Wherein the hermite dewly wont to say
 His holy thinges each morne and even-
 tyde:

Thereby a christall streame did gently
 play,³⁰⁵

Which from a sacred fountaine welled
 forth alway.

XXXV

Arrived there, the little house they fill,
 Ne looke for entertainment, where none
 was:

Rest is their feast, and all thinges at their
 will;

The noblest mind the best contentment
 has.³¹⁰

¹ clothes. ² bowing.

³ requited.

⁴ simple.

⁵ telling, counting.

⁶ befits.

⁷ meddle.

⁸ feed.
¹⁰ a little way off.

⁹ take thought, consider.
¹¹ built.

With faire discourse the evening so they
 pas:
 For that olde man of pleasing wordes had
 store,
 And well could file his tongue as smooth
 as glas:
 He told of saintes and popes, and ever-
 more
 He strowd an Ave-Mary after and be-
 fore. 315

XXXVI

The drouping night thus creepeth on them
 fast,
 And the sad humor¹ loading their eye
 liddes,
 As messenger of Morpheus, on them cast
 Sweet slombring deaw, the which to sleep
 them biddes:
 Unto their lodgings then his guestes he
 riddes:² 320
 Where when all drownd in deadly sleepe
 he findes,
 He to his studie goes, and there amiddes
 His magick bookes and artes of sundrie
 kindes,
 He seekes out mighty charmes, to trouble
 sleepey minds.

XXXVII

Then choosing out few words most horri-
 ble, 325
 (Let none them read) thereof did verses
 frame;
 With which and other spelles like terrible,
 He bad awake blacke Plutoes griesly dame,
 And cursed heven, and spake reprochful
 shame
 Of highest God, the Lord of life and
 light: 330
 A bold bad man, that dar'd to call by name
 Great Gorgon, prince of darknes and dead
 night,
 At which Cocytus quakes, and Styx is put
 to flight.

XXXVIII

And forth he cald out of deepe darknes
 dredd
 Legions of sprights, the which, like litle
 flies 335
 Fluttring about his ever damned hedd,
 Awaite whereto their service he applies,

¹ heavy moisture.² sends off.

To aide his friendes, or fray³ his enimies:
 Of those he chose out two, the falsest twoo,
 And fittest for to forge true-seeming
 lyes; 340
 The one of them he gave a message too,
 The other by him selfe staide, other worke
 to doo.

XXXIX

He, making speedy way through spersed⁴
 ayre,
 And through the world of waters wide and
 deepe,
 To Morpheus house doth hastily re-
 paire. 345
 Amid the bowels of the earth full steepe,
 And low, where dawning day doth never
 peepe,
 His dwelling is; there Tethys his wet bed
 Doth ever wash, and Cynthia still doth
 steepe
 In silver deaw his ever-drouping hed, 350
 Whiles sad Night over him her mantle
 black doth spred.

XL

Whose double gates he findeth locked fast,
 The one faire fram'd of burnisht yvory,
 The other all with silver overcast;
 And wakeful dogges before them farre doe
 lye, 355
 Watching to banish Care their enemy,
 Who oft is wont to trouble gentle Sleepe.
 By them the sprite doth passe in quietly,
 And unto Morpheus comes, whom
 drowned deepe
 In drowsie fit he findes: of nothing he
 takes keepe.⁵ 360

XLI

And more to lulle him in his slumber soft,
 A trickling streame from high rock tum-
 bling downe,
 And ever drizzling raine upon the loft,
 Mixt with a murmuring winde, much like
 the sowne
 Of swarming bees, did cast him in a
 swowne: 365
 No other noyse, nor peoples troublous
 cries,
 As still⁶ are wont t'annoy the walled
 towne,

³ frighten.
⁵ heed.⁴ widely diffused.
⁶ ever.

Might there be heard: but careless Quiet
lyes,
Wrapt in eternall silence farre from eni-
myes.

XLII

The messenger approaching to him
spake, 370
But his waste wordes retourned to him in
vaine:
So sound he slept, that nought mought him
awake.
Then rudely he him thrust, and pusht with
paine,
Whereat he gan to stretch: but he againe
Shooke him so hard, that forced him to
speake. 375
As one then in a dreame, whose dryer
braine
Is tost with troubled sights and fancies
weake,
He mumbled soft, but would not all his
silence breake.

XLIII

The sprite then gan more boldly him to
wake,
And threatned unto him the dreaded
name 380
Of Hecate: whereat he gan to quake,
And, lifting up his lompish head, with
blame
Halfe angrie asked him, for what he came.
"Hether," quoth he, "me Archimago sent,
He that the stubborne sprites can wisely
tame; 385
He bids thee to him send for his intent
A fit false dreame, that can delude the
sleepers sent."¹

XLIV

The god obayde, and calling forth straight
way
A diverse dreame out of his prison darke,
Delivered it to him, and downe did lay 390
His heaue head, deuoide of careful carke;²
Whose sences all werē straight benumbd
and starke.
He, backe returning by the yvorie dore,
Remounted up as light as cheareful larke,
And on his litle winges the dreame he bore
In hast unto his lord, where he him left
afore. 396

* * * * *

¹ sense.² anxiety.

From CANTO III

I

Nought is there under heav'ns wide
hollownesse,
That moves more deare compassion of
mind,
Then beautie brought t'unworthie wretch-
ednesse
Through envies snares, or fortunes freakes
unkind:
I, whether lately through her³ brightnes
blynd, 5
Or through alleageance and fast fealty,
Which I do owe unto all womankynd,
Feele my hart perst with so great agony,
When such I see, that all for pitty I could
dy.

II

And now it is empassioned so deepe, 10
For fairest Unaes sake, of whom I sing,
That my frayle eies these lines with teares
do steepe,
To thinke how she through guyleful
handeling,
Though true as touch, though daughter of
a king,
Though faire as ever living wight was
fayre, 15
Though nor in word nor deede ill meriting,
Is from her knight divorced in despayre,
And her dew loves deryv'd⁴ to that vile
witches shayre.

III

Yet she, most faithfull Ladie, all this while
Forsaken, wofull, solitarie mayd, 20
Far from all peoples preace,⁵ as in exile,
In wilderness and wastfull deserts strayd,
To seeke her knight; who, subtilly betrayd
Through that late vision which th' en-
chaunter wrought,
Had her abandond. She, of nought
affrayd, 25
Through woods and wastnes wide him
daily sought;
Yet wished tydings none of him unto her
brought.

IV

One day, nigh wearie of the yrksome way,
From her unhastie beast she did alight;

³ i. e. beauty's.⁴ diverted.⁵ press, crowd.

And on the grasse her dainty limbs did lay,
In secrete shadow, far from all mens
sight:

From her fayre head her fillet she undight,
And layd her stole aside. Her angels face
As the great eye of heaven shyned bright,
And made a sunshine in the shady place;³¹
Did never mortall eye behold such heav-
enly grace.

V

It fortun'd, out of the thickest wood
A ramping lyon rushed suddeinly,
Hunting full greedy after salvage¹ blood.
Soone as the royall virgin he did spy, ⁴⁰
With gaping mouth at her ran greedily,
To have attonce devourd her tender corse;²
But to the pray when as he drew more
ny,
His bloody rage aswaged with remorse,
And, with the sight amazd, forgat his
furious forse. ⁴⁵

VI

In stead thereof he kist her wearie feet,
And lickt her lilly hands with fawning
tong,
As he her wronged innocence did weet.³
O how can beautie maister the most strong,
And simple truth subdue avenging wrong!
Whose yielded pryde and proud submis-
sion, ⁵¹
Still dreading death, when she had marked
long,
Her hart gan melt in great compassion,
And drizling teares did shed for pure affec-
tion.

VII

"The lyon, lord of everie beast in field," ⁵⁵
Quoth she, "his princely puissance doth
abate,
And mightie proud to humble weake does
yield,
Forgetfull of the hungry rage, which late
Him prickt, in pittie of my sad estate:
But he, my lyon, and my noble lord, ⁶⁰
How does he find in cruell hart to hate
Her that him lov'd and ever most adord
As the God of my life? why hath he me
abhor'd?"

¹ savage.² body.³ know.

VIII

Redounding teares did choke th' end of her
plaint,
Which softly ecchoed from the neighbour
wood; ⁶⁵
And sad to see her sorrowfull constraint,
The kingly beast upon her gazing stood;
With pittie calmd, downe fell his angry
mood.

At last, in close hart shutting up her payne,
Arose the virgin borne of heavenly brood,
And to her snowy palfrey got agayne, ⁷¹
To seeke her strayed champion if she
might attayne.

IX

The lyon would not leave her desolate,
But with her went along, as a strong gard
Of her chast person, and a faythfull mate;⁷⁵
Of her sad troubles and misfortunes hard:
Still, when she slept, he kept both watch
and ward,
And when she wakt, he wayted diligent,
With humble service to her will prepar'd:
From her fayre eyes he tooke commande-
ment, ⁸⁰
And ever by her lookes conceived her
intent.

* * * * *

CANTO XI

The knight with that old Dragon fights
Two days incessantly:
The third him overthrowes, and gayns
Most glorious victory.

I

High time now gan it wex for Una fayre,
To thinke of those her captive parents
deare,
And their forwasted⁴ kingdom to repayre:
Whereto whenas they now approched
neare,
With hartie wordes her knight she gan to
cheare, ⁵
And in her modest maner thus bespake:
"Deare knight, as deare as ever knight was
deare,
That all these sorrowes suffer for my sake,
High heaven behold the tedious toyle ye for
me take!

⁴ ravaged.

II

"Now are we come unto my native soyle,¹⁰
 And to the place where all our perilles
 dwell;
 Here hauntes that feend, and does his
 dayly spoyle;
 Therefore henceforth bee at your keeping
 well,
 And ever ready for your foeman fell.
 The sparke of noble corage now awake, ¹⁵
 And strive your excellent selfe to excell:
 That shall ye evermore renowned make
 Above all knights on earth, that batteill
 undertake."

III

And pointing forth, "Lo! yonder is,"
 (said she)
 "The brasen towre, in which my parents
 deare ²⁰
 For dread of that huge feend emprisond
 be;
 Whom I from far see on the walles ap-
 peare,
 Whose sight my feeble soule doth greatly
 cheare:
 And on the top of all I do espye
 The watchman wayting tydings glad to
 heare; ²⁵
 That, O my Parents! might I happily
 Unto you bring, to ease you of your
 misery!"

IV

With that they heard a roaring hideous
 sownd,
 That all the ayre with terror filled wyde,
 And seemd uneth¹ to shake the stedfast
 ground. ³⁰
 Eftsoones² that dreadful dragon they
 espyde,
 Where stretcht he lay upon the sunny side
 Of a great hill, himselfe like a great hill.
 But all so soone as he from far descryde
 Those glistring armes, that heven with
 light did fill, ³⁵
 He rousd himselfe full blyth, and hastned
 them untill.

V

Then badd the knight his Lady yede³ aloof,
 And to an hill herselfe withdraw asyde,

¹ almost.² shortly.³ go.

From whence she might behold that bat-
 tailles proof,
 And eke be safe from daunger far descryde:
 She him obayd, and turned a little wyde.⁴¹
 Now, O thou sacred Muse! most learned
 dame,
 Fayre ympe⁴ of Phœbus and his aged
 bryde,
 The nourse of time and everlasting fame,
 That warlike handes ennoblest with im-
 mortall name; ⁴⁵

VI

O gently come into my feeble brest;
 Come gently, but not with that mightie
 rage,
 Wherewith the martiall troupes thou doest
 infest,
 And hartes of great heroës doest enrage,
 That nought their kindled corage may
 aswage: ⁵⁰
 Soone as thy dreadfull trompe begins to
 sownd,
 The god of warre with his fiers equipage
 Thou doest awake, sleepe never he so
 sownd;
 And scared nations doest with horror
 sterne astownd.

VII

Fayre goddesses, lay that furious fitt
 asyde, ⁵⁵
 Till I of warres and bloody Mars doe sing,
 And Bryton fieldes with Sarazin blood
 bedyde,
 Twixt that great Faery Queene and
 Paynim King,
 That with their horror heven and earth
 did ring,
 A worke of labour long, and endlesse
 prayse: ⁶⁰
 But now a while lett downe that haughtie
 string,
 And to my tunes thy second tenor rayse,
 That I this man of God his godly armes
 may blaze.

VIII

By this the dreadful Beast drew nigh to
 hand,
 Halfe flying and halfe footing in his haste,

⁴ child.

That with his largenesse measured much
land, 66
And made wide shadow under his huge
waste,
As mountaine doth the valley overcaste.
Approching nigh, he reared high afore
His body monstrous, horrible, and vaste, 70
Which, to increase his wondrous greatnes
more,
Was swoln with wrath and poyson, and
with bloody gore.

IX

And over all with brasen scales was armd,
Like plated cote of steele, so couched
neare
That nought mote perce; ne might his
corse¹ bee harmd 75
With dint of swerd, nor push of pointed
speare:
Which as an eagle, seeing pray appeare,
His aery plumes doth rouze, full rudely
dight,²
So shaken he, that horror was to heare:
For as the clashing of an armor bright, 80
Such noyse his rouzed scales did send unto
the knight.

X

His flaggy winges, when forth he did dis-
play,
Were like two sayles, in which the hollow
wynd
Is gathered full, and worketh speedy
way:
And eke the pennes,³ that did his pineons
bynd, 85
Were like mayne-yardes with flying can-
vas lynd,
With which whenas him list the ayre to
beat,
And there by force unwonted passage
fynd,
The cloudes before him fledd for terror
great,
And all the hevens stood still, amazed
with his threat. 90

XI

His huge long tayle, wownd up in hundred
foldes,
Does overspred his long bras-scaly back,

¹ body.² arrayed.³ quills.

Whose wreathed boughes⁴ when ever he
unfolds,
And thick entangled knots adown does
slack,
Bespotted as with shieldes of red and
blacke, 95
It sweepeth all the land behind him farre,
And of three furlongs does but litle lacke;
And at the point two stinges in fixed arre,
Both deadly sharp, that sharpest steele
exceeden farre.

XII

But stinges and sharpest steele did far
exceed 100
The sharpnesse of his cruel rending clawes:
Dead was it sure, as sure as death in
deed,
What ever thing does touch his ravenous
pawes,
Or what within his reach he ever drawes.
But his most hideous head my tongue
to tell 105
Does tremble; for his deepe devouring
jawes
Wyde gaped, like the griesly mouth of hell,
Through which into his darke abysses all
ravin fell.

XIII

And, that more wondrous was, in either
jaw
Three ranckes of yron teeth enraunged
were, 110
In which yett trickling blood and gob-
bets⁵ raw
Of late devoured bodies did appeare,
That sight thereof bredd cold congealed
feare:
Which to increase, and all atonce to kill,
A cloud of smothering smoke and sul-
phure seare⁶ 115
Out of his stinking gorge forth steemed
still,
That all the ayre about with smoke and
stench did fill.

XIV

His blazing eyes, like two bright shining
shieldes,
Did burne with wrath, and sparkled liv-
ing fyre;

⁴ coils.⁵ pieces.⁶ searing.

As two broad beacons, sett in open fieldes,
Send forth their flames far off to every
shyre, 121

And warning give that enimies conspyre
With fire and sword the region to invade:
So flam'd his eyne with rage and rancor-
ous yre;

But far within, as in a hollow glade, 125
Those glaring lampes were sett that made
a dreadfull shade.

XV

So dreadfully he towards him did pas,
Forelifiting up a-loft his speckled brest,
And often bounding on the brused gras,
As for great joyance of his newcome
guest. 130

Eftsoones he gan advaunce his haughty
crest,
As chauffed¹ bore his bristles doth up-
reare;
And shoke his scales to battaile ready
drest,
That made the Redcrosse Knight nigh
quake for feare,
As bidding bold defyaunce to his foeman
neare. 135

XVI

The knight gan fayrely couch his steady
speare,
And fierseely ran at him with rigorous
might:

The pointed steele, arriving rudely theare,²
His harder hyde would nether perce nor
bight,

But, glauncing by, foorth passed forward
right. 140

Yet sore amoved with so puisaunt push,
The wrathfull beast about him turned
light,

And him so rudely, passing by, did brush
With his long tayle, that horse and man to
ground did rush.

XVII

Both horse and man up lightly rose
again, 145

And fresh encounter towards him addrest;
But th' ydle stroke yet backe recoyld in
vaine,

And found no place his deadly point to
rest.

¹ angry.² there.

Exceeding rage enflam'd the furious beast,
To be avenged of so great despight; 150
For never felt his imperceable³ brest
So wondrous force from hand of living
wight;

Yet had he prov'd the powre of many a
puissant knight.

XVIII

Then, with his waving wings displayed
wyde,

Himselfe up high he lifted from the
ground, 155

And with strong flight did forcibly divyde
The yielding ayre, which nigh too feeble
found

Her flitting parts, and element unsound,
To beare so great a weight: he, cutting
way

With his broad sayles, about him soared
round; 160

At last, low stouping with unweldy sway,
Snatcht up both horse and man, to beare
them quite away.

XIX

Long he them bore above the subject
plaine,

So far as ewghen⁴ bow a shaft may send,
Till struggling strong did him at last con-
straine 165

To let them downe before his flightes end:
As hagar hauke, presuming to contend
With hardy fowle, above his hable might,
His wearie pounces⁵ all in vaine doth
spend

To trusse⁶ the pray too heavy for his
flight; 170

Which, comming down to ground, does
free it selfe by fight.

XX

He so disseized of his gryping grosse,
The knight his thrillant⁷ speare againe
assayd

In his bras-plated body to embosse,
And three mens strength unto the stroake
he layd; 175

Wherewith the stiffe beame quaked, as
affrayd,⁸

³ impenetrable.⁴ yew.⁵ efforts, struggles.⁶ hold.⁷ piercing.⁸ terrified.

And glauncing from his scaly necke did
glyde
Close under his left wing, then broad dis-
playd:
The percing steele there wrought a wound
full wyde,
That with the uncouth¹ smart the monster
lowdly cryde. 180

XXI

He cryde, as raging seas are wont to rore
When wintry storme his wrathful wreck
does threat;
The rolling billowes beate the ragged
shore,
As they the earth would shoulder from
her seat;
And greedy gulfe does gape, as he would
eat 185
His neighbour element in his revenge:
Then gin the blustering brethren boldly
threat
To move the world from off his stedfast
henge,²
And boystrous battaile make, each other
to avenge.

XXII

The steely head stuck fast still in his
flesh, 190
Till with his cruell clawes he snatcht the
wood,
And quite a sunder broke. Forth flowed
fresh
A gushing river of blacke gory blood,
That drowned all the land whereon he
stood:
The streame thereof would drive a water-
mill. 195
Treble augmented was his furious mood
With bitter sence of his deepe rooted ill,
That flames of fire he threw forth from
his large nostril.³

XXIII

His hideous tayle then hurled he about,
And therewith all enwrapt the nimble
thyres 200
Of his froth-fomy steed, whose courage
stout
Striving to loose the knott that fast him
tyes,

Himselfe in streighter bandes too rash
implyes,⁴
That to the ground he is perforce con-
straynd
To throw his ryder; who can quickly ryse
From off the earth, with durty blood dis-
taynd,⁵ 206
For that reprochfull fall right fowly he
disdaynd.

XXIV

And fercely tooke his trenchand blade in
hand,
With which he stroke so furious and so fell,
That nothing seemd the puissaunce could
withstand: 210
Upon his crest the hardned yron fell;
But his more hardned crest was armd so
well,
That deeper dint therein it would not
make;
Yet so extremely did the buffe him quell,
That from thenceforth he shund the like
to take, 215
But, when he saw them come, he did
them still forsake.

XXV

The knight was wroth to see his stroke
beguyld,
And smot againe with more outrageous
might;
But backe againe the sparcling steele re-
coyld,
And left not any marke where it did
light, 220
As if in adamant rocke it had beene
pight.⁶
The beast, impatient of his smarting
wound,
And of so fierce and forcible despight,⁷
Thought with his winges to sty⁸ above
the ground;
But his late wounded wing unserviceable
found. 225

XXVI

Then, full of grieve and anguish vehement,
He lowdly brayd, that like was never
heard;
And from his wide devouring oven sent
A flake of fire, that, flashing in his beard,
Him all amazd, and almost made afeard:

¹ strange.² hinge; but here meaning base, or foundation.³ nostrils.⁴ involves. ⁵ soiled. ⁶ struck. ⁷ anger. ⁸ rise.

The scorching flame sore swung¹ all his
face, 231
And through his armour all his body seard,
That he could not endure so cruell cace,
But thought his armes to leave, and hel-
met to unlace.

XXVII

Not that great champion of the antique
world, 235
Whom famous poetes verse so much doth
vaunt,
And hath for twelve huge labours high
extold,
So many furies and sharpe fits did haunt,
When him the poysoned garment did en-
chaunt,
When centaures blood and bloody verses
charmd, 240
As did this knight twelve thousand
dolours daunt,
Whom fyrie steele now burnt, that erst
him armd;
That erst him goodly armd, now most of
all him harmd.

XXVIII

Faynt, wearie, sore, emboyled,² grieved,
brent,³
With heat, toyle, wounds, armes, smart,
and inward fire, 245
That never man such mischiefes did tor-
ment;
Death better were, death did he oft desire,
But death will never come when needes re-
quire.
Whom so dismayd when that his foe be-
held,
He cast⁴ to suffer him no more respire,⁵ 250
But gan his sturdy sterne⁶ about to weld,
And him so strongly stroke, that to the
ground him feld.

XXIX

It fortun'd (as fayre it then befell,)
Behynd his backe, unweeting, where he
stood,
Of auncient time there was a springing
well, 255
From which fast trickled forth a silver
flood,

¹ singed.
⁴ planned.

² boiled.
⁵ breathe.

³ burned.
⁶ tail.

Full of great vertues, and for med'cine
good.

Whylome, before that cursed dragon got
That happy land, and all with innocent
blood

Defyld those sacred waves, it rightly
hot⁷ 260

The Well of Life, ne yet his⁸ vertues had
forgot.

XXX

For unto life the dead it could restore,
And guilt of sinfull crimes cleane wash
away;

Those that with sicknesse were infected
sore

It could recure; and aged long decay 265
Renew, as one were borne that very day.
Both Silo this, and Jordan, did excell,
And th' English Bath, and eke the German
Spau;

Ne can Cephise, nor Hebrus, match this
well:

Into the same the knight back over-
throwen fell. 270

XXXI

Now gan the golden Phœbus for to steepe
His fierie face in billowes of the west,
And his faint steedes watred in ocean
deepe,

Whiles from their journall labours they
did rest,

When that infernall monster, having kest⁹
His wearie foe into that living well, 276
Gan high advaunce his broad discoloured
brest

Above his wonted pitch, with countenance
fell,

And clapt his yron wings, as victor he did
dwell.

XXXII

Which when his pensive lady saw from
farre, 280

Great woe and sorrow did her soule assay,¹⁰
As weening that the sad end of the warre,
And gan to highest God entirely pray

That feared chaunce from her to turne
away:

With folded hands, and knees full lowly
bent, 285

All night shee watcht, ne once adowne
would lay

⁷ was called.

⁸ its.

⁹ cast.

¹⁰ afflict.

Her dainty limbs in her sad dreriment,
But praying still did wake, and waking did
lament.

XXXIII

The morrow next gan earely to appeare,
That Titan rose to runne his daily race;²⁹⁰
But earely, ere the morrow next gan reare
Out of the sea faire Titans deawy face,
Up rose the gentle virgin from her place,
And looked all about, if she might spy
Her loved knight to move his manly pace:
For she had great doubt of his safety, ²⁹⁶
Since late she saw him fall before his
enimy.

XXXIV

At last she saw where he upstarted brave
Out of the well, wherein he drenched lay:
As eagle, fresh out of the ocean wave, ³⁰⁰
Where he hath lefte his plumes all hory
gray,
And deckt himselfe with fethers youthly
gay,
Like eyas hauke up mounts unto the
skies,
His newly-budded pineons to assay,
And marvelles at himselfe stil as he flies:
So new this new-borne knight to battell
new did rise. ³⁰⁶

XXXV

Whom when the damned feend so fresh
did spy
No wonder if he wondred at the sight,
And doubted whether his late enemy
It were, or other new supplied knight. ³¹⁰
He now, to prove his late-renewed might,
High brandishing his bright deaw-burning
blade,
Upon his crested scalp so sore did smite,
That to the scull a yawning wound it
made:
The deadly dint his dulled sences all dis-
maid. ³¹⁵

XXXVI

I wote¹ not whether the revenging steele
Were hardned with that holy water dew
Wherein he fell, or sharper edge did feele,
Or his baptized hands now greater grew,
Or other secret vertue did ensew; ³²⁰
Els never could the force of fleshly arme,
Ne molten mettall, in his blood embrew;²

For till that stownd³ could never wight
him harme
By subtilty, nor slight, nor might, nor
mighty charme.

XXXVII

The cruell wound enraged him so sore, ³²⁵
That loud he yelled for exceeding paine;
As hundred ramping lions seemd to rore,
Whom ravenous hunger did thereto con-
straine:
Then gan he tosse aloft his stretched
traine,
And therewith scourge the buxome⁴ aire
so sore, ³³⁰
That to his force to yelden it was faine;
Ne ought his sturdy strokes might stand
afore,
That high trees overthrew, and rocks in
peesces tore.

XXXVIII

The same advauncing high above his
head,
With sharpe intended⁵ sting so rude him
smott,⁶ ³³⁵
That to the earth him drove, as stricken
dead;
Ne living wight would have him life be-
hott:
The mortall sting his angry needle shott
Quite through his shield, and in his
shoulder sead,⁷
Where fast it stucke, ne would thereout be
gott: ³⁴⁰
The grieve thereof him wondrous sore
discead,
Ne might his ranceling paine with patience
be appeasd.

XXXIX

But yet, more mindfull of his honour
deare
Then of the grievous smart which him did
wring,
From loathed soile he can him lightly
reare, ³⁴⁵
And strove to loose the far infixed sting:
Which when in vaine he tryde with strug-
geling,

¹ know.² stain itself.³ moment.
⁶ smote.⁴ yielding.⁵ outstretched.
⁷ fastened.

Inflam'd with wrath, his raging blade he
 hefte,¹
 And strooke so strongly, that the knotty
 string
 Of his huge taile he quite a sonder cleft;
 Five joints thereof he hewd, and but the
 stump him lefte. 351

XL

Hart cannot thinke what outrage and
 what cries,
 With fowle enfouldred² smoake and flash-
 ing fire,
 The hell-bred beast threw forth unto the
 skies, 354
 That all was covered with darknesse dire:
 Then, fraught³ with rancour and en-
 gorged yre,
 He cast⁴ at once him to avenge for all,
 And, gathering up himselfe out of the mire
 With his uneven wings, did fiercely fall
 Upon his sunne-bright shield, and grypt it
 fast withall. 360

XLI

Much was the man encombred with his
 hold,
 In feare to lose his weapon in his paw,
 Ne wist⁵ yett how his talaunts⁶ to un-
 fold;
 Nor harder was from Cerberus greedy jaw
 To plucke a bone, then from his cruell
 claw 365
 To reave by strength the griped gage
 away:
 Thrise he assayd it from his foote to draw,
 And thrise in vaine to draw it did assay;
 It booted nought to thinke to robbe him
 of his pray.

XLII

Tho,⁷ when he saw no power might pre-
 vaile, 370
 His trusty sword he cald to his last aid,
 Wherewith he fiersly did his foe assaile,
 And double blowes about him stoutly laid,
 That glauncing fire out of the yron plaid,
 As sparkles from the andvile use to fly, 375
 When heavy hammers on the wedge are
 swaid;
 Therewith at last he forst him to unty
 One of his grasping feete, him to defend
 thereby.

¹ raised.² black as a thunderbolt.³ filled.⁴ planned.⁵ knew.⁶ talons.⁷ then.

XLIII

The other foote, fast fixed on his shield,
 Whenas no strength nor stroks mote⁸
 him constraine 380
 To loose, ne yet the warlike pledge to
 yield,
 He smott thereat with all his might and
 maine,
 That nought so wondrous puissance
 might sustaine:
 Upon the joint the lucky steele did light,
 And made such way that hewd it quite
 in twaine; 385
 The paw yett missed not his minisht⁹
 might,
 But hong still on the shield, as it at first
 was pight.¹⁰

XLIV

For grieve thereof and divelish despight,¹¹
 From his infernall founace forth he
 threw
 Huge flames, that dimmed all the hevens
 light, 390
 Enrold in duskish smoke and brimstone
 blew;
 As burning Aetna from his boyling stew¹²
 Doth belch out flames, and rockes in
 peeces broke,
 And ragged ribs of mountaines molten
 new,
 Enwrapt in coleblacke cloudes and filthy
 smoke, 395
 That al the land with stench, and heven
 with horror choke.

XLV

The heate whereof, and harmefull pes-
 tilence,
 So sore him noyd,¹³ that forst him to re-
 tire
 A little backward for his best defence,
 To save his body from the scorching
 fire, 400
 Which he from hellish entrailes did ex-
 pire.
 It chaunst, (Eternall God that chaunce
 did guide)
 As he recoiled backward, in the mire
 His nigh foreweried¹⁴ feeble feet did slide,
 And downe he fell, with dread of shame
 sore terrife. 405

⁸ might.⁹ diminished.¹⁰ placed.¹¹ anger.¹² hot room.¹³ annoyed.¹⁴ wearied out.

XLVI

There grew a goodly tree him faire beside,
 Loaden with fruit and apples rosy redd,
 As they in pure vermilion had been dide,
 Whereof great vertues over all¹ were
 redd;²

For happy life to all which thereon fedd,⁴¹⁰
 And life eke everlasting did befall:

Great God it planted in that blessed
 stedd³

With his Almighty hand, and did it call
 The Tree of Life, the crime of our first
 fathers fall.

XLVII

In all the world like was not to be fownd,
 Save in that soile, where all good things
 did grow,⁴¹⁶

And freely sprong out of the fruitfull
 grownd,

As incorrupted Nature did them sow,
 Till that dredd dragon all did overthrow.
 Another like faire tree eke grew thereby,⁴²⁰
 Whereof whoso did eat, eftsoones did know
 Both good and ill: O mournfull memory!
 That tree through one mans fault hath
 doen⁴ us all to dy.

XLVIII

From that first tree forth flowd, as from
 a well,

A trickling streame of balme, most so-
 veraine⁴²⁵

And dainty deare, which on the ground
 still fell,

And overflowed all the fertile plaine,
 As it had deawed bene with timely raine:
 Life and long health that gracious oint-
 ment gave,

And deadly wounds could heale, and
 reare againe⁴³⁰

The sencelesse corse appointed for the
 grave.

Into that same he fell, which did from
 death him save.

XLIX

For nigh thereto the ever damned beast
 Durst not approach, for he was deadly
 made,

And al that life preserved did detest;⁴³⁵
 Yet he it oft adventur'd to invade.

¹ everywhere.² told.³ place.⁴ caused.

By this the drouping day-light gan to fade,
 And yield his rowme⁵ to sad succeeding
 night,

Who with her sable mantle gan to shade
 The face of earth, and wayes of living
 wight,⁴⁴⁰

And high her burning torch set up in
 heaven bright.

L

When gentle Una saw the second fall
 Of her deare knight, who, weary of long
 fight

And faint through losse of blood, moov'd
 not at all,

But lay, as in a dreame of deepe delight,⁴⁴⁵
 Besmeard with pretious balme, *whose
 vertuous⁶ might

Did heale his woundes, and scorching
 heate alay,

Againe she stricken was with sore affright,
 And for his safetic gan devoutly pray,
 And watch the noyous⁷ night, and wait
 for joyous day.⁴⁵⁰

LI

The joyous day gan early to appeare;
 And fayre Aurora from the deawy bed
 Of aged Tithone gan herselfe to reare
 With rosy cheekes, for shame as blushing
 red:

Her golden locks for hast were loosely
 shed⁴⁵⁵

About her eares, when Una her did marke
 Clymbe to her charet, all with flowers
 spred,

From heven high to chace the chearelesse
 darke;

With mery note her lowd salutes the
 mounting larke.

LII

Then freshly up arose the doughty
 knight,⁴⁶⁰

All healed of his hurts and woundes wide,
 And did himselfe to battaile ready dight;⁸

Whose early foe awaiting him beside
 To have devoured, so soone as day he spyde,

When now he saw himselfe so freshly
 reare,⁴⁶⁵

As if late fight had nought him damni-
 fyde,

⁵ place.⁶ efficacious.⁷ grievous.⁸ make ready.

He woxe¹ dismaid, and gan his fate to
feare;
Nathlesse with wonted rage he him ad-
vaunced neare.

LIII

And in his first encounter, gaping wyde,
He thought attonce² him to have swal-
lowd quight, 470
And rusht upon him³ with outrageous
pryde;
Who him rencountring fierce, as hauke in
flight,
Perforce rebutted backe. The weapon
bright,
Taking advantage of his open jaw,
Ran thfough his mouth with so impor-
tune³ might, 475
That deepe emperst⁴ his darksom hollow
maw,
And, back retyrd,⁵ his life blood forth with
all did draw.

LIV

So downe he fell, and forth his life did
breath,
That vanisht into smoke and cloudes
swift;
So downe he fell, that th' earth him under-
neath 480
Did grone, as feeble so great load to
lift;
So downe he fell, as an huge rocky clift,
Whose false foundation waves have washt
away,
With dreadfull poyse⁶ is from the mayne-
land rift,⁷
And, rolling downe, great Neptune doth
dismay; 485
So downe he fell, and like an heaped
mountaine lay.

LV

The knight him selfe even trembled at
his fall,
So huge and horrible a masse it seemd;
And his deare Lady, that beheld it all,
Durst not approach for dread which she
misdeemd; 490
But yet at last, whenas the direfull feend

¹ grew.² at once.³ impetuous.⁴ pierced.⁵ withdrawn.⁶ force.⁷ broken.

She saw not stirre, off-shaking vaine af-
fright
She nigher drew, and saw that joyous
end:

Then God she prayisd, and thankt her
faithfull knight,
That had atchievde so great a conquest
by his might. 495

PROTHALAMION

Calme was the day, and through the trem-
bling ayre
Sweete breathing Zephyrus did softly
play,
A gentle spirit, that lightly did delay
Hot Titans beames, which then did glyster
fayre:

When I, whom sullein care, 5
Through discontent of my long fruitlesse
stay

In princes court, and expectation vayne
Of idle hopes, which still doe fly away,
Like empty shaddowes, did afflict my
brayne,

Walkt forth to ease my payne 10
Along the shoare of silver streaming
Themmes;

Whose ruty⁸ bancke, the which his river
hemmes,

Was paynted all with variable flowers,
And all the meades adord with daintie
gemmes,

Fit to decke maydens bowres, 15
And crowne their paramours,
Against the brydale day, which is not
long.⁹

Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I
end my song.

There, in a meadow, by the rivers side,
A flocke of nymphes I chaunced to espy, 20
All lovely daughters of the flood thereby,
With goodly greenish locks all loose un-
tyde,

As each had bene a bryde:
And each one had a little wicker basket,
Made of fine twigs entrayled curiously, 25
In which they gathered flowers to fill their
flasket;

And with fine fingers cropt full feateously¹⁰
The tender stalkes on hye.

⁸ rooty.⁹ distant.¹⁰ deftly.

Of every sort, which in that meadow grew,
 They gathered some; the violet pallid
 blew, 30
 The little dazie, that at evening closes,
 The virgin lillie, and the primrose trew,
 With store of vermeil roses,
 To decke their bridegromes posies
 Against the brydale day, which was not
 long: 35
 Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I
 end my song.

With that I saw two swannes of goodly
 hewe
 Come softly swimming downe along the
 lee;¹
 Two fairer birds I yet did never see:
 The snow which doth the top of Pindus
 strew 40
 Did never whiter shew,
 Nor Jove himselfe, when he a swan would
 be
 For love of Leda, whiter did appear:
 Yet Leda was, they say, as white as he,
 Yet not so white as these, nor nothing
 neare: 45
 So purely white they were,
 That even the gentle streame, the which
 them bare,
 Seem'd foule to them, and bad his bil-
 lowes spare
 To wet their silken feathers, least they
 might
 Soyle their fayre plumes with water not so
 fayre, 50
 And marre their beauties bright,
 That shone as heavens light,
 Against their brydale day, which was not
 long:
 Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I
 end my song.

Eftsoones the nymphes, which now had
 flowers their fill, 55
 Ran all in haste to see that silver brood,
 As they came floating on the christal flood;
 Whom when they sawe, they stood amazed
 still,
 Their wondring eyes to fill.
 Them seem'd they never saw a sight so
 fayre, 60
 Of fowles so lovely, that they sure did
 deeme

¹ stream.

Them heavenly borne, or to be that same
 payre
 Which through the skie draw Venus silver
 teeme;
 For sure they did not seeme
 To be begot of any earthly seede, 65
 But rather angels or of angels breede:
 Yet were they bred of Somers-heat, they
 say,
 In sweetest season, when each flower and
 weede
 The earth did fresh aray;
 So fresh they seem'd as day, 70
 Even as their brydale day, which was not
 long:
 Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I end
 my song.

Then forth they all out of their baskets
 drew
 Great store of flowers, the honour of the
 field,
 That to the sense did fragrant odours
 yeild, 75
 All which upon those goodly birds they
 threw,
 And all the waves did strew,
 That like old Peneus waters they did
 seeme,
 When downe along by pleasant Tempes
 shore,
 Scattered with flowres, through Thessaly
 they streeme, 80
 That they appeare, through lillies plen-
 teous store,
 Like a brydes chamber flore.
 Two of those nymphes, meane while, two
 garlands bound
 Of freshest flowres which in that mead
 they found,
 The which presenting all in trim array, 85
 Their snowie foreheads therewithall they
 crownd,
 Whil'st one did sing this lay,
 Prepar'd against that day,
 Against their brydale day, which was not
 long:
 Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I end
 my song. 90

"Ye gentle birdes, the worlds faire orna-
 ment,
 And heavens glorie, whom this happie
 hower

Doth leade unto your lovers blissfull
bower.
Joy may you have and gentle hearts content
Of your loves couplement: 95
And let faire Venus, that is Queene of
Love,
With her heart-quelling sonne upon you
smile,
Whose smile, they say, hath vertue to
remove
All loves dislike, and friendships faultie
guile
For ever to assoile. 100
Let endlesse peace your steadfast hearts
accord,
And blessed plentie wait upon your bord;
And let your bed with pleasures chaste
abound,
That fruitfull issue may to you afford,
Which may your foes confound, 105
And make your joyes redound,
Upon your brydale day, which is not long:
Sweete Themmes, run softlie, till I end
my song."

So ended she; and all the rest around
To her redoubled that her undersong, 110
Which said, their bridale daye should not
be long.
And gentle Eccho from the neighbour
ground
Their accents did resound.
So forth those joyous birdes did passe
along,
Adowne the lee, that to them murmurde
low, 115
As he would speake, but that he lackt a
tong.
Yeat did by signes his glad affection show,
Making his streame run slow.
And all the foule which in his flood did
dwell
Gan flock about these twaine, that did ex-
cell 120
The rest so far as Cynthia doth shend¹
The lesser starres. So they, enranged well,
Did on those two attend,
And their best service lend,
Against their wedding day, which was not
long: 125
Sweete Themmes, run softly, till I end
my song.

¹ shame.

At length they all to mery London came,
To mery London, my most kyndly nurse,
That to me gave this lifes first native
source:
Though from another place I take my
name, 130
An house of auncient fame.
There when they came, whereas those
bricky towres,
The which on Themmes brode aged backe
doe ryde,
Where now the studious lawyers have their
bowers,
There whylome wont the Templer Knights
to byde, 135
Till they decayd through pride:
Next whereunto, there standes a stately
place,
Where oft I gayned giftes and goodly
grace
Of that great lord which therein wont to
dwell,
Whose want too well now feeles my
freendles case: 140
But ah! here fits not well
Olde woes, but joyes to tell,
Against the bridale daye, which is not
long:
Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I end
my song.

Yet therein now doth lodge a noble
peer, 145
Great Englands glory and the worlds wide
wonder,
Whose dreadfull name late through all
Spaine did thunder,
And Hercules two pillors standing neere
Did make to quake and feare.
Faire branch of honor, flower of chevalrie,
That fillest England with thy triumphes
fame, 151
Joy have thou of thy noble victorie,
And endlesse happinesse of thine owne
name
That promiseth the same:
That through thy prowesse and victorious
armes 155
Thy country may be freed from forraine
harmes;
And great Elisaes glorious name may
ring
Through al the world, fil'd with thy wide
alarmes,

Which some brave Muse may sing
To ages following, 160
Upon the brydale day, which is not long:
Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I
end my song.

From those high towers this noble lord
issuing,
Like radiant Hesper when his golden
hayre

In th' ocean billows he hath bathed fayre,
Descended to the rivers open vewing, 166
With a great traine ensuing.

Above the rest were goodly to bee seene
Two gentle knights of lovely face and
feature,

Beseeming well the bower of anie queene,
With gifts of wit and ornaments of na-
ture, 171

Fit for so goodly stature:
That like the twins of Jove they seem'd in
sight,

Which decke the bauldricke of the heavens
bright.

They two, forth pacing to the rivers side,
Received those two faire brides, their loves
delight, 176

Which, at th' appointed tyde,
Each one did make his bryde,
Against their brydale day, which is not
long:

Sweete Themmes, runne softly, till I end
my song. 180

ELIZABETHAN SONNETEERS

SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503?-1542)

THE LOVER COMPARETH HIS
STATE TO A SHIP IN PERILOUS
STORM TOSSED ON THE SEA

My galley, chargèd with forgetfulness,
Thorough sharpe seas, in winter nights
doth pass,

'Tween rock and rock; and eke mine
enemy, alas,

That is my lord, steereth with cruelty;
And every oar, a thought in readiness, 5
As though that death were light in such a
case;

An endless wind doth tear the sail apace
Of forced sighs and trusty fearfulness;

A rain of tears, a cloud of dark disdain,
Hath done the wearied cords' great hin-
derance; 10

Wreathèd with error and eke with igno-
rance,

The stars be hid that led me to this pain;
Drowned is Reason, that should me
comfort;

And I remain, despairing of the port.

HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF
SURREY (1517?-1547)

DESCRIPTION OF SPRING, WHERE-
IN EACH THING RENEWS, SAVE
ONLY THE LOVER

The soote¹ season that bud and bloom
forth brings,

With green hath clad the hill and eke the
vale;

The nightingale with feathers new she
sings;

The turtle to her make² hath told her tale:
Summer is come, for every spray now
springs; 5

The hart hath hung his old head on the
pale;

The buck in brake his winter coat he
flings;

The fishes flete³ with new repaired scale;
The adder all her slough away she slings;
The swift swallow pursueth the flies smale;
The busy bee her honey now she mings.⁴ 11

Winter is worn, that was the flowers' bale:
And thus I see among these pleasant
things

Each care decays, and yet my sorrow
springs!

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-1586)

From ASTROPHEL AND STELLA

I

Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love
to show,

That she, dear she, might take some
pleasure of my pain,—

¹ sweet.
² float.

³ mate.
⁴ mixes.

Pleasure might cause her read, reading
 might make her know,
 Knowledge might pity win, and pity grace
 obtain,—
 I sought fit words to paint the blackest
 face of woe, 5
 Studying inventions fine, her wits to enter-
 tain,
 Oft turning others' leaves, to see if thence
 would flow
 Some fresh and fruitful showers upon my
 sunburned brain.
 But words came halting forth, wanting
 Invention's stay;
 Invention, Nature's child, fled step-dame
 Study's blows; 10
 And others' feet still seemed but strangers
 in my way.
 Thus, great with child to speak, and help-
 less in my throes,
 Biting my truant pen, beating myself
 for spite;
 "Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in
 thy heart, and write!"

XXXI

With how sad steps, O Moon, thou
 climb'st the skies!
 How silently, and with how wan a
 face!
 What, may it be that even in heavenly
 place
 That busy archer his sharp arrows tries!
 Sure, if that long-with-love-acquainted
 eyes 5
 Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's
 case;
 I read it in thy looks: thy languished
 grace
 To me, that feel the like, thy state de-
 scribes.
 Then, even of fellowship, O Moon, tell
 me
 Is constant love deemed there but want of
 wit? 10
 Are beauties there as proud as here they
 be?
 Do they above love to be loved, and
 yet
 Those lovers scorn whom that love
 doth possess?
 Do they call virtue there ungrateful-
 ness?

XXXIX

Come, Sleep! O Sleep, the certain knot of
 peace,
 The baiting-place of wit, the balm of
 woe,
 The poor man's wealth, the prisoner's re-
 lease,
 Th' indifferent judge between the high and
 low;
 With shield of proof shield me from out
 the prease¹ 5
 Of those fierce darts Despair at me doth
 throw:
 O make in me those civil wars to cease;
 I will good tribute pay, if thou do so.
 Take thou of me smooth pillows, sweetest
 bed,
 A chamber deaf of noise and blind of
 light,
 A rosy garland and a weary head: 11
 And if these things, as being thine in
 right,
 Move not thy heavy grace, thou shalt
 in me,
 Livelier than elsewhere, Stella's image
 see.

XLI

Having this day my horse, my hand, my
 lance
 Guided so well that I obtained the prize,
 Both by the judgment of the English
 eyes
 And of some sent from that sweet enemy
 France;
 Horsemen my skill in horsemanship
 advance, 5
 Town folks my strength; a daintier judge
 applies
 His praise to sleight which from good use
 doth rise;
 Some lucky wits impute it but to chance;
 Others, because of both sides I do take
 My blood from them who did excel in
 this, 10
 Think Nature me a man-at-arms did
 make.
 How far they shot awry! the true cause
 is,
 Stella looked on, and from her heavenly
 face
 Sent forth the beams which made so
 fair my race.

¹ press, throng.

EDMUND SPENSER (1552?–1599)

From AMORETTI

XXIV

When I behold that beauty's wonderment,
 And rare perfection of each goodly part,
 Of nature's skill the only complement,
 I honor and admire the Maker's art.
 But when I feel the bitter, baleful smart 5
 Which her fair eyes unwares do work in
 me,

That death out of their shiny beams do
 dart,

I think that I a new Pandora see:

Whom all the gods in council did agree
 Into this sinful world from heaven to send,
 That she to wicked men a scourge should
 be, 11

For all their faults with which they did
 offend.

But since ye are my scourge, I will
 intreat

That for my faults ye will me gently
 beat.

XXXIV

Like as a ship, that through the ocean wide
 By conduct of some star doth make her
 way,

Whenas a storm hath dimmed her trusty
 guide,

Out of her course doth wander far astray;
 So I, whose star, that wont with her bright
 ray 5

Me to direct, with clouds is overcast,
 Do wander now in darkness and dismay,
 Through hidden perils round about me
 placed.

Yet hope I well, that when this storm is
 past,

My *Helicé*, the lodestar of my life, 10
 Will shine again, and look on me at last,
 With lovely light to clear my cloudy grief;

Till then I wander careful, comfort-
 less,

In secret sorrow and sad pensiveness.

LXIII

After long storms and tempests' sad assay,
 Which hardly I endured heretofore,
 In dread of death, and dangerous dis-
 may,

With which my silly bark was tossed sore,
 I do at length descry the happy shore, 5
 In which I hope ere long for to arrive:
 Fair soil it seems from far, and fraught
 with store

Of all that dear and dainty is alive.

Most happy he that can at last achieve
 The joyous safety of so sweet a rest; 10
 Whose least delight sufficeth to deprive
 Remembrance of all pains which him op-
 pressed.

All pains are nothing in respect of this,
 All sorrows short that gain eternal
 bliss.

LXX

Fresh Spring, the herald of love's mighty
 king,

In whose coat-armor richly are displayed
 All sorts of flowers the which on earth do
 spring,

In goodly colors gloriously arrayed;

Go to my love, where she is careless laid, 5

Yet in her winter's bower not well awake;

Tell her the joyous time will not be stayed,

Unless she do him by the forelock take;

Bid her therefore herself soon ready make

To wait on Love amongst his lovely
 crew; 10

Where everyone that misseth then her
 make¹

Shall be by him amerced² with penance
 due.

Make haste, therefore, sweet love, whilst
 it is prime;

For none can call again the passèd
 time.

LXXV

One day I wrote her name upon the
 strand,

But came the waves and washèd it away;

Again I wrote it with a second hand,

But came the tide and made my pains
 his prey.

"Vain man," said she, "that dost in vain
 assay 5

A mortal thing so to immortalize:

For I myself shall like to this decay,

And eke my name be wipèd out like-
 wise."

"Not so," quoth I, "let baser things
 devise

¹ mate.² punished.

To die in dust, but you shall live by
fame: 10

My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,
And in the heavens write your glorious
name.

Where, whenas death shall all the world
subdue,

Our love shall live, and later life
renew."

LXXIX

Men call you fair, and you do credit it,
For that yourself ye daily such do see;
But the true fair, that is the gentle wit
And virtuous mind, is much more praised
of me:

For all the rest, however fair it be, 5
Shall turn to nought and lose that glorious
hue;

But only that is permanent and free
From frail corruption that doth flesh ensue.
That is true beauty; that doth argue you
To be divine, and born of heavenly seed; 10
Derived from that fair Spirit from whom
all true

And perfect beauty did at first proceed:

He only fair, and what he fair hath
made;

All other fair, like flowers, untimely
fade.

SAMUEL DANIEL (1562-1619)

CARE-CHARMER SLEEP

Care-charmer Sleep, son of the sable
Night,

Brother to Death, in silent darkness born:
Relieve my languish, and restore the light;
With dark forgetting of my care, return!
And let the day be time enough to mourn
The shipwreck of my ill-adventured
youth: 6

Let waking eyes suffice to wail their scorn,
Without the torment of the night's un-
truth.

Cease, dreams, the images of day-desires,
To model forth the passions of the morrow;
Never let rising sun approve you liars, 11
To add more grief to aggravate my sorrow.

Still let me sleep, embracing clouds in
vain;

And never wake to feel the day's dis-
dain.

MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563-1631)

SINCE THERE'S NO HELP

Since there's no help, come, let us kiss and
part!

Nay, I have done, you get no more of
me;

And I am glad, yea, glad, with all my
heart,

That thus so cleanly I myself can free.

Shake hands for ever, cancel all our
vows; 5

And when we meet at any time again,

Be it not seen in either of our brows,

That we one jot of former love retain.

Now at the last gasp of Love's latest
breath,

When, his pulse failing, Passion speechless
lies; 10

When Faith is kneeling by his bed of
death,

And Innocence is closing up his eyes,—

Now, if thou wouldst, when all have
given him over,

From death to life thou might'st him
yet recover!

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

XVIII

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of
May,

And summer's lease hath all too short a
date;

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven
shines, 5

And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair¹ from fair sometime de-
clines,

By chance or nature's changing course un-
trimmed;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade

Nor lose possession of that fair thou
ow'st;² 10

Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in
his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:

¹ beauty.

² ownest.

So long as men can breathe or eyes can
see,
So long lives this and this gives life to
thee.

XXIX

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's
eyes,
I all alone bewep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless
cries,
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in
hope, 5
Featured like him, like him with friends
possessed,
Desiring this man's art and that man's
scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost de-
spising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my
state, 10
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's
gate;
For thy sweet love remembered such
wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state
with kings.

XXX

When to the sessions of sweet silent
thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's
waste:
Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow, 5
For precious friends hid in death's date-
less night,
And weep afresh love's long-since can-
celled woe,
And moan the expense¹ of many a vanished
sight:
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er 10
The sad account of fore-bemoanèd moan,
Which I new pay as if not paid before.
But if the while I think on thee, dear
friend,
All losses are restored and sorrows end.

¹ loss.

XXXIII

Full many a glorious morning have I seen
Flatter the mountain-tops with sovereign
eye,
Kissing with golden face the meadows
green,
Gilding pale streams with heavenly al-
chemy,
Anon permit the basest clouds to ride 5
With ugly rack² on his celestial face,
And from the forlorn world his visage hide,
Stealing unseen to west with this disgrace:
Even so my sun one early morn did shine
With all-triumphant splendor on my
brow; 10
But out, alack! he was but one hour mine;
The region³ cloud hath masked him from
me now.
Yet him for this my love no whit dis-
daineth;
Suns of the world may stain, when
heaven's sun staineth.

LXIV

When I have seen by Time's fell hand de-
faced
The rich proud cost of outworn buried age;
When sometime lofty towers I see down-
razed,
And brass eternal slave to mortal rage;
When I have seen the hungry ocean gain 5
Advantage on the kingdom of the shore,
And the firm soil win of the watery main,
Increasing store with loss and loss with
store;
When I have seen such interchange of
state,
Or state itself confounded to decay; 10
Ruin hath taught me thus to ruminate,
That Time will come and take my love
away.
This thought is as a death, which can-
not choose
But weep to have that which it fears to
lose.

LXV

Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor
boundless sea,
But sad mortality o'er-sways their power,
How with this rage shall beauty hold a
plea,
Whose action is no stronger than a flower?

² broken masses of flying cloud.³ of the upper air.

O, how shall summer's honey breath hold
 out 5
 Against the wrackful siege of batt'ring
 days,
 When rocks impregnable are not so stout,
 Nor gates of steel so strong, but Time de-
 cays?
 O fearful meditation! where, alack,
 Shall Time's best jewel from Time's chest
 lie hid? 10
 Or what strong hand can hold his swift
 foot back?
 Or who his spoil of beauty can forbid?
 O, none, unless this miracle have might,
 That in black ink my love may still shine
 bright.

LXVI

Tired with all these, for restful death I
 cry:
 As, to behold desert a beggar born,
 And needy nothing trimmed in jollity,
 And purest faith unhappily forsworn,
 And gilded honor shamefully misplaced, 5
 And maiden virtue rudely strumpeted,
 And right perfection wrongfully disgraced,
 And strength by limping sway disabled,
 And art made tongue-tied by authority, 10
 And folly, doctor-like, controlling skill,
 And simple truth miscalled simplicity,¹
 And captive good attending captain ill.
 Tired with all these, from these would I
 be gone,
 Save that, to die, I leave my love alone.

LXXI

No longer mourn for me when I am dead
 Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell
 Give warning to the world that I am fled
 From this vile world, with vilest worms to
 dwell:
 Nay, if you read this line, remember not 5
 The hand that writ it; for I love you so
 That I in your sweet thoughts would be
 forgot
 If thinking on me then should make you
 woe.
 O, if, I say, you look upon this verse
 When I perhaps compounded am with
 clay, 10
 Do not so much as my poor name re-
 hearse,
 But let your love even with my life decay,

¹ folly.

Lest the wise world should look into
 your moan
 And mock you with me after I am gone.

LXXIII

That time of year thou mayst in me be-
 hold
 When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do
 hang
 Upon those boughs which shake against
 the cold,
 Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet
 birds sang.
 In me thou see'st the twilight of such day 5
 As after sunset fadeth in the west;
 Which by and by black night doth take
 away,
 Death's second self, that seals up all in
 rest.
 In me thou see'st the glowing of such
 fire
 That on the ashes of his youth doth lie, 10
 As the death-bed whereon it must ex-
 pire,
 Consumed with that which it was nour-
 ished by.
 This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy
 love more strong,
 To love that well which thou must leave
 ere long.

XCVIII

From you have I been absent in the spring,
 When proud-pied² April dressed in all his
 trim
 Hath put a spirit of youth in every thing,
 That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped
 with him.
 Yet nor the lays of birds nor the sweet
 smell 5
 Of different flowers in odor and in hue
 Could make me any summer's story tell,
 Or from their proud lap pluck them where
 they grew;
 Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
 Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;
 They were but sweet, but figures of de-
 light, 11
 Drawn after you, you pattern of all those.
 Yet seemed it winter still, and, you
 away,
 As with your shadow, I with these did
 play.

² gorgeously variegated.

CVI

When in the chronicle of wasted time
 I see descriptions of the fairest wights,
 And beauty making beautiful old rhyme
 In praise of ladies dead and lovely knights;
 Then, in the blazon of sweet beauty's
 best, 5
 Of hand, of foot, of lip, of eye, of brow,
 I see their antique pen would have ex-
 pressed
 Even such a beauty as you master now.
 So all their praises are but prophecies
 Of this our time, all you prefiguring; 10
 And, for they looked but with divining
 eyes,
 They had not skill enough your worth to
 sing:
 For we, which now behold these present
 days,
 Have eyes to wonder, but lack tongues
 to praise.

CXVI

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
 Admit impediments. Love is not love
 Which alters when it alteration finds,
 Or bends with the remover to remove:
 O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark 5
 That looks on tempests and is never
 shaken;
 It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
 Whose worth's unknown, although his
 height be taken.
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips
 and cheeks
 Within his bending sickle's compass come;
 Love alters not with his brief hours and
 weeks, 11
 But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
 If this be error and upon me proved,
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

CXLVI

Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth,
 Thrall to these rebel powers that thee
 array,
 Why dost thou pine within and suffer
 dearth,
 Painting thy outward walls so costly gay?
 Why so large cost, having so short a lease, 5
 Dost thou upon thy fading mansion spend?
 Shall worms, inheritors of this excess,
 Eat up thy charge? Is this thy body's end?

Then, soul, live thou upon thy servant's
 loss,
 And let that pine to aggravate thy store; 10
 Buy terms divine in selling hours of dross;
 Within be fed, without be rich no more:
 So shalt thou feed on Death, that feeds
 on men,
 And Death once dead, there's no more
 dying then.

ELIZABETHAN SONG WRITERS

ANONYMOUS

BACK AND SIDE GO BARE, GO
BARE

Back and side go bare, go bare,
 Both hand and foot go cold;
 But, belly, God send thee good ale
 enough,
 Whether it be new or old.

I cannot eat but little meat, 5
 My stomach is not good;
 But sure I think that I can drink
 With him that wears a hood.
 Though I go bare, take ye no care,
 I am nothing a-cold; 10
 I stuff my skin so full within
 Of jolly good ale and old.
 Back and side, etc.

I love no roast but a nutbrown toast,
 And a crab¹ laid in the fire; 15
 A little bread shall do me stead,
 Much bread I not desire.
 No frost nor snow, no wind, I trow,
 Can hurt me if it would,
 I am so wrapt and thoroughly lapt 20
 Of jolly good ale and old.
 Back and side, etc.

And Tib my wife, that as her life
 Loveth well good ale to seek,
 Full oft drinks she, till ye may see 25
 The tears run down her cheek;
 Then doth she trowl² to me the bowl
 Even as a maltworm³ should,
 And saith, "Sweetheart, I have take my
 part
 Of this jolly good ale and old." 30
 Back and side, etc.

¹ apple.² pass.³ a tippler.

Now let them drink till they nod and
wink,

Even as good fellows should do;
They shall not miss to have the bliss
Good ale doth bring men to. 35

And all poor souls that have scoured¹ bowls,
Or have them lustily trowled,
God save the lives of them and their wives,
Whether they be young or old.

Back and side, go bare, go bare, 40
Both hand and foot go cold;

But, belly, God send thee good ale
enough,

Whether it be new or old.

SIR EDWARD DYER (1550?-1607)

MY MIND TO ME A KINGDOM IS

My mind to me a kingdom is,
Such present joys therein I find
That it excels all other bliss

That earth affords or grows by kind:
Though much I want which most would
have, 5

Yet still my mind forbids to crave.

No princely pomp, no wealthy store,
No force to win the victory,
No wily wit to salve a sore,
No shape to feed a loving eye; 10
To none of these I yield as thrall:
For why? My mind doth serve for all.

I see how plenty [surfeits] oft,
And hasty climbers soon do fall;
I see that those which are aloft 15
Mishap doth threaten most of all;
They get with toil, they keep with fear:
Such cares my mind could never bear.

Content to live, this is my stay;
I seek no more than may suffice; 20
I press to bear no haughty sway;
Look, what I lack my mind supplies:
Lo, thus I triumph like a king,
Content with that my mind doth bring.

Some have too much, yet still do crave; 25
I little have, and seek no more.

They are but poor, though much they
have,

And I am rich with little store:
They poor, I rich; they beg, I give;
They lack, I leave; they pine, I live. 30

¹ emptied.

I laugh not at another's loss;
I grudge not at another's pain;
No worldly waves my mind can toss;
My state at one doth still remain:
I fear no foe, I fawn no friend; 35
I loathe not life, nor dread my end.

Some weigh their pleasure by their lust,
Their wisdom by their rage of will;
Their treasure is their only trust;
A cloakèd craft their store of skill: 40
But all the pleasure that I find
Is to maintain a quiet mind.

My wealth is health and perfect ease;
My conscience clear my chief defence;
I neither seek by bribes to please, 45
Nor by deceit to breed offence:
Thus do I live; thus will I die;
Would all did so as well as I!

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-1586)

LOVE IS DEAD

Ring out your bells, let mourning shows
be spread;

For Love is dead:
All Love is dead, infected
With plague of deep disdain:
Worth, as nought worth, rejected, 5
And Faith fair scorn doth gain.
From so ungrateful fancy,
From such a female franzie,²
From them that use men thus,
Good Lord, deliver us! 10

Weep, neighbors, weep; do you not hear it
said

That Love is dead?
His death-bed, peacock's folly;
His winding-sheet is shame;
His will, false-seeming holy; 15
His sole exec'tor, blame.
From so ungrateful fancy,
From such a female franzie,
From them that use men thus,
Good Lord, deliver us! 20

Let dirge be sung, and trentals rightly read,
For Love is dead;
Sir Wrong his tomb ordaineth
My mistress' marble heart;
Which epitaph containeth, 25

² frenzy.

"Her eyes were once his dart."
 From so ungrateful fancy,
 From such a female franzie,
 From them that use men thus,
 Good Lord, deliver us! 30

Alas, I lie: rage hath this error bred;
 Love is not dead;
 Love is not dead, but sleepeth
 In her unmatched mind,
 Where she his counsel keepeth, 35
 Till due deserts she find.
 Therefore from so vile fancy,
 To call such wit a franzie,
 Who Love can temper thus,
 Good Lord, deliver us! 40

JOHN LYLly (1554?-1606)

CUPID AND CAMPASPE

Cupid and my Campaspe played
 At cards for kisses; Cupid paid.
 He stakes his quiver, bow, and arrows,
 His mother's doves and team of sparrows;
 Loses them too; then down he throws 5
 The coral of his lip, the rose
 Growing on's cheek (but none knows how);
 With these the crystal of his brow,
 And then the dimple of his chin;
 All these did my Campaspe win. 10
 At last he set¹ her both his eyes;
 She won, and Cupid blind did rise.
 O Love, has she done this to thee?
 What shall, alas! become of me?

SPRING'S WELCOME

What bird so sings, yet so does wail?
 O 'tis the ravished nightingale.
 "Jug, jug, jug, jug, tereu," she cries,
 And still her woes at midnight rise.
 Brave prick-song! who is't now we hear? 5
 None but the lark so shrill and clear;
 Now at heaven's gates she claps her wings,
 The morn not waking till she sings.
 Hark, hark, with what a pretty throat
 Poor robin redbreast tunes his note; 10
 Hark how the jolly cuckoo sing,
 Cuckoo, to welcome in the spring;
 Cuckoo, to welcome in the spring!

¹ wagered.

GEORGE PEELE (1558?-1597?)

CUPID'S CURSE

ÆNONE. Fair and fair, and twice so fair,
 As fair as any may be;
 The fairest shepherd on our
 green,
 A love for any lady.
 PARIS. Fair and fair, and twice so fair, 5
 As fair as any may be;
 Thy love is fair for thee alone,
 And for no other lady.
 ÆN. My love is fair, my love is gay,
 As fresh as bin² the flowers in
 May, 10
 And of my love my roundelay,
 My merry, merry roundelay,
 Concludes with Cupid's curse,—
 "They that do change old love for
 new,
 Pray gods they change for worse!" 15
 AMBO SIMUL.³ They that do change, etc.
 ÆN. Fair and fair, etc.
 PAR. Fair and fair, etc.
 Thy love is fair, etc.
 ÆN. My love can pipe, my love can
 sing, 20
 My love can⁴ many a pretty thing,
 And of his lovely praises ring
 My merry, merry roundelays,
 Amen to Cupid's curse,—
 "They that do change," etc. 25
 PAR. They that do change, etc.
 AMBO. Fair and fair, etc.

ROBERT GREENE (1560?-1592)

SWEET ARE THE THOUGHTS

Sweet are the thoughts that savor of content;
 The quiet mind is richer than a crown;
 Sweet are the nights in careless slumber
 spent;
 The poor estate scorns fortune's angry
 frown:
 Such sweet content, such minds, such
 sleep, such bliss, 5
 Beggars enjoy, when princes oft do miss.

² are.

³ Both together.

⁴ knows how to do.

The homely house that harbors quiet rest;
 The cottage that affords no pride nor
 care;
 The mean that 'grees with country music
 best;
 The sweet consort¹ of mirth and music's
 fare; 10
 Obscurèd life sets down a type of bliss:
 A mind content both crown and kingdom
 is.

SEPHESTIA'S SONG TO HER CHILD

Weep not, my wanton, smile upon my knee,
 When thou art old there's grief enough for
 thee.

Mother's wag, pretty boy,
 Father's sorrow, father's joy;
 When thy father first did see 5
 Such a boy by him and me,
 He was glad, I was woe;
 Fortune changed made him so,
 When he left his pretty boy,
 Last his sorrow, first his joy. 10

Weep not, my wanton, smile upon my knee,
 When thou art old there's grief enough for
 thee.

Streaming tears that never stint,
 Like pearl drops from a flint,
 Fell by course from his eyes, 15
 That one another's place supplies;
 Thus he grieved in every part,
 Tears of blood fell from his heart,
 When he left his pretty boy,
 Father's sorrow, father's joy. 20

Weep not, my wanton, smile upon my knee,
 When thou art old there's grief enough for
 thee.

The wanton smiled, father wept,
 Mother cried, baby leapt;
 More he crowed, more he cried, 25
 Nature could not sorrow hide:
 He must go, he must kiss
 Child and mother, baby bless,
 For he left his pretty boy,
 Father's sorrow, father's joy. 30

Weep not, my wanton, smile upon my
 knee,
 When thou art old there's grief enough for
 thee.

¹ harmony.

THOMAS LODGE (1558?-1625)

ROSALIND'S MADRIGAL

Love in my bosom like a bee
 Doth suck his sweet;
 Now with his wings he plays with me,
 Now with his feet.
 Within mine eyes he makes his nest, 5
 His bed amidst my tender breast;
 My kisses are his daily feast,
 And yet he robs me of my rest.
 Ah, wanton, will ye?

And if I sleep, then percheth he, 10
 With pretty flight,
 And makes his pillow of my knee,
 The livelong night.
 Strike I my lute, he tunes the string;
 He music plays if so I sing; 15
 He lends me every lovely thing;
 Yet cruel he my heart doth sting.
 Whist,² wanton, still ye!

Else I with roses every day
 Will whip you hence, 20
 And bind you, when you long to play,
 For your offence.
 I'll shut my eyes to keep you in,
 I'll make you fast it for your sin,
 I'll count your power not worth a pin. 25
 Alas! what hereby shall I win
 If he gainsay me?

What if I beat the wanton boy
 With many a rod?
 He will repay me with annoy, 30
 Because a god.
 Then sit thou safely on my knee,
 And let thy bower my bosom be;
 Lurk in mine eyes, I like of thee.
 O Cupid, so thou pity me, 35
 Spare not, but play thee!

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE (1564-1593)

THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS LOVE

Come live with me and be my love,
 And we will all the pleasures prove,
 That valleys, groves, hills, and fields,
 Woods, or steepy mountains, yields.

² hush.

And we will sit upon the rocks, 5
 Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,
 By shallow rivers, to whose falls
 Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses,
 And a thousand fragrant posies, 10
 A cap of flowers and a kirtle
 Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle:

A gown made of the finest wool,
 Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
 Fair lined slippers for the cold, 15
 With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and ivy buds,
 With coral clasps and amber studs;
 And if these pleasures may thee move,
 Come live with me and be my love. 20

The shepherd swains shall dance and sing
 For thy delights each May morning;
 If these delights thy mind may move,
 Then live with me and be my love.

THOMAS NASH (1567–1601)

LITANY IN TIME OF PLAGUE

Adieu, farewell, earth's bliss,
 This world uncertain is:
 Fond¹ are life's lustful joys,
 Death proves them all but toys.
 None from his darts can fly; 5
 I am sick, I must die.
 Lord, have mercy on us!

Rich men, trust not in wealth,
 Gold cannot buy you health;
 Physic himself must fade; 10
 All things to end are made;
 The plague full swift goes by;
 I am sick, I must die.
 Lord, have mercy on us!

Beauty is but a flower, 15
 Which wrinkles will devour:
 Brightness falls from the air;
 Queens have died young and fair;
 Dust hath closed Helen's eye;
 I am sick, I must die. 20
 Lord, have mercy on us!

¹ foolish.

Strength stoops unto the grave;
 Worms feed on Hector brave;
 Swords may not fight with fate;
 Earth still holds ope her gate; 25
 Come, come, the bells do cry;
 I am sick, I must die.
 Lord, have mercy on us!

Wit with his wantonness,
 Tasteth death's bitterness; 30
 Hell's executioner
 Hath no ears for to hear
 What vain art can reply;
 I am sick, I must die.
 Lord, have mercy on us! 35

Haste therefore each degree
 To welcome destiny:
 Heaven is our heritage,
 Earth but a player's stage;
 Mount we unto the sky; 40
 I am sick, I must die.
 Lord, have mercy on us!

SIR WALTER RALEIGH (1552?–1618)

HIS PILGRIMAGE

Give me my scallop-shell² of quiet,
 My staff of faith to walk upon,
 My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
 My bottle of salvation,
 My gown of glory, hope's true gage;³ 5
 And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

Blood must be my body's balmer;
 No other balm will there be given;
 Whilst my soul, like a quiet palmer,
 Travelleth towards the land of heaven,
 Over the silver mountains, 11
 Where spring the nectar fountains.
 There will I kiss
 The bowl of bliss;
 And drink mine everlasting fill 15
 Upon every milken hill.
 My soul will be a-dry before;
 But, after, it will thirst no more.

Then by that happy blissful day
 More peaceful pilgrims I shall see, 20
 That have cast off their rags of clay,
 And walk apparelled fresh like me.

² badge of a pilgrim.

³ pledge.

I'll take them first,
 To quench their thirst
 And taste of nectar suckets¹ 25
 At those clear wells
 Where sweetness dwells,
 Drawn up by saints in crystal buckets.

And when our bottles and all we
 Are filled with immortality, 30
 Then the blessed paths we'll travel,
 Strowed with rubies thick as gravel;
 Ceilings of diamonds, sapphire floors,
 High walls of coral, and pearly bowers.

From thence to Heaven's bribeless hall,
 Where no corrupted voices brawl; 36
 No conscience molten into gold;
 No forged accuser bought or sold;
 No cause deferred, no vain-spent jour-
 ney,
 For there Christ is the King's Attorney, 40
 Who pleads for all, without degrees,
 And he hath angels but no fees.

And when the grand twelve million jury
 Of our sins, with direful fury,
 Against our souls black verdicts give, 45
 Christ pleads his death; and then we live.

Be Thou my speaker, taintless Pleader!
 Unblotted Lawyer! true Proceeder!
 Thou giv'st salvation, even for alms,
 Not with a bribed lawyer's palms. 50

And this is mine eternal plea
 To Him that made heaven and earth and
 sea:
 That, since my flesh must die so soon,
 And want a head to dine next noon,
 Just at the stroke, when my veins start
 and spread, 55
 Set on my soul an everlasting head!

Then am I ready, like a palmer fit,
 To tread those blest paths, which before I
 writ.

THE CONCLUSION

Even such is time, that takes in trust
 Our youth, our joys, our all we have,
 And pays us but with earth and dust;
 Who in the dark and silent grave,

¹ sweets.

When we have wandered all our ways, 5
 Shuts up the story of our days:
 But from this earth, this grave, this dust,
 My God shall raise me up, I trust.

ROBERT SOUTHWELL (1561?-1596)

THE BURNING BABE

As I in hoary winter's night stood shiver-
 ing in the snow,
 Surprised I was with sudden heat which
 made my heart to glow;
 And lifting up a fearful eye to view what
 fire was near,
 A pretty babe, all burning bright, did in
 the air appear,
 Who, scorched with excessive heat, such
 floods of tears did shed, 5
 As though his floods should quench his
 flames which with his tears were fed;
 "Alas!" quoth he, "but newly born in
 fiery heats I fry,
 Yet none approach to warm their hearts or
 feel my fire but I!
 My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel,
 wounding thorns;
 Love is the fire and sighs the smoke, the
 ashes, shame and scorns; 10
 The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy
 blows the coals;
 The metal in this furnace wrought are
 men's defiled souls;
 For which, as now on fire I am to work
 them to their good,
 So will I melt into a bath to wash them in
 my blood."
 With this he vanished out of sight, and
 swiftly shrunk away, 15
 And straight I called unto mind that it
 was Christmas-day.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

SONGS FROM THE PLAYS

From LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST

When icicles hang by the wall,
 And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
 And Tom bears logs into the hall,
 And milk comes frozen home in pail,

When blood is nipped and ways be foul, 5
 Then nightly sings the staring owl,
 Tu-whit, to-who,
 A merry note,
 While greasy Joan doth keel¹ the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow, 10
 And coughing drowns the parson's
 saw,
 And birds sit brooding in the snow,
 And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
 When roasted crabs² hiss in the bowl,
 Then nightly sings the staring owl, 15
 Tu-whit, to-who,
 A merry note,
 While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

From TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Who is Silvia? what is she,
 That all our swains commend her?
 Holy, fair, and wise is she;
 'The heaven such grace did lend her,
 That she might admirèd be. 5

Is she kind as she is fair?
 For beauty lives with kindness.
 Love doth to her eyes repair
 To help him of his blindness,
 And, being helped, inhabits there. 10

Then to Silvia let us sing
 That Silvia is excelling;
 She excels each mortal thing
 Upon the dull earth dwelling;
 To her let us garlands bring. 15

From A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Over hill, over dale,
 Thorough bush, thorough brier,
 Over park, over pale,
 Thorough flood, thorough fire,
 I do wander everywhere, 5
 Swifter than the moon's sphere;
 And I serve the fairy Queen,
 To dew her orbs upon the green.
 The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
 In their gold coats spots you see: 10
 Those be rubies, fairy favors,
 In those freckles live their saviors.
 I must go seek some dewdrops here,
 And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

¹ cool by stirring.

² apples.

From THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Tell me where is fancy³ bred,
 Or in the heart or in the head?
 How begot, how nourishèd?
 Reply, reply.

It is engendered in the eyes, 5
 With gazing fed; and fancy dies
 In the cradle where it lies.
 Let us all ring fancy's knell;
 I'll begin it,—Ding-dong, bell.
 Ding, dong, bell. 10

From AS YOU LIKE IT

Under the greenwood tree
 Who loves to lie with me,
 And turn his merry note
 Unto the sweet bird's throat,
 Come hither, come hither, come hither! 5
 Here shall he see
 No enemy
 But winter and rough weather.

Who doth ambition shun
 And loves to live i' the sun, 10
 Seeking the food he eats,
 And pleased with what he gets,
 Come hither, come hither, come hither!
 Here shall he see
 No enemy 15
 But winter and rough weather.

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
 Thou art not so unkind
 As man's ingratitude;
 Thy tooth is not so keen,
 Because thou art not seen, 5
 Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green
 holly:
 Most friendship is feigning, most loving
 mere folly:
 Then, heigh ho, the holly!
 This life is most jolly. 10

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky!
 That dost not bite so nigh
 As benefits forgot;

³ love.

Though thou the waters warp,¹
 Thy sting is not so sharp 15
 As friend remembered not.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! etc.

It was a lover and his lass
 With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
 That o'er the green corn-field did pass
 In the spring time, the only pretty ring
 time,
 When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;⁵
 Sweet lovers love the spring.

Between the acres of the rye,
 With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
 These pretty country folks would lie,
 In spring time, etc. 10

This carol they began that hour,
 With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
 How that life was but a flower
 In spring time, etc.

And therefore take the present time, 15
 With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
 For love is crownèd with the prime
 In spring time, etc.

From TWELFTH NIGHT

O Mistress mine, where are you roaming?
 O, stay and hear, your true love's coming,
 That can sing both high and low:
 Trip no further, pretty sweeting,
 Journeys end in lovers meeting, 5
 Every wise man's son doth know.

What is love? 'Tis not hereafter;
 Present mirth hath present laughter;
 What's to come is still unsure:
 In delay there lies no plenty; 10
 Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty,
 Youth's a stuff will not endure.

From MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Take, O, take those lips away,
 That so sweetly were forsworn;
 And those eyes, the break of day,
 Lights that do mislead the morn:
 But my kisses bring again, bring again; 5
 Seals of love, but sealed in vain, sealed in
 vain.

¹ transform.

From ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Come, thou monarch of the vine,
 Plumpy Bacchus with pink eyne!²
 In thy vats our cares be drowned,
 With thy grapes our hairs be crowned!
 Cup us, till the world go round, 5
 Cup us, till the world go round!

From CYMBELINE

Hark, hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings,
 And Phœbus 'gins arise,
 His steeds at water at those springs
 On chaliced³ flowers that lies;
 And winking Mary-buds begin 5
 To ope their golden eyes;
 With every thing that pretty is,
 My lady sweet, arise!
 Arise, arise!

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
 Nor the furious winter's rages;
 Thou thy worldly task hast done,
 Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:
 Golden lads and girls all must, 5
 As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great;
 Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
 Care no more to clothe and eat;
 To thee the reed is as the oak: 10
 The sceptre, learning, physic, must
 All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,
 Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;⁴
 Fear not slander, censure rash; 15
 Thou hast finished joy and moan:
 All lovers young, all lovers must
 Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee!
 Nor no witchcraft charm thee! 20
 Ghost unlaid forbear thee!
 Nothing ill come near thee!
 Quiet consummation have;
 And renownèd be thy grave!

From THE TEMPEST

ARIEL'S SONGS

Come unto these yellow sands,
 And then take hands;
 Curtsied when you have, and kissed
 The wild waves whist,⁵

² eyes.

³ cup-shaped.

⁴ thunderbolt.

⁵ hushed.

Foot it fealty¹ here and there, 5
 And, sweet sprites, the burden bear.
 Hark, hark!
 Bow-wow.
 The watch-dogs bark:
 Bow-wow. 10
 Hark, hark! I hear
 The strain of strutting chanticleer
 Cry, Cock-a-diddle-dow.

Full fathom five thy father lies:
 Of his bones are coral made;
 Those are pearls that were his eyes;
 Nothing of him that doth fade
 But doth suffer a sea-change 5
 Into something rich and strange.
 Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:
 Ding-dong!
 Hark! now I hear them,—Ding-dong,
 bell!

Where the bee sucks, there suck I;
 In a cowslip's bell I lie;
 There I couch when owls do cry;
 On the bat's back I do fly
 After summer merrily. 5
 Merrily, merrily shall I live now
 Under the blossom that hangs on the
 bough.

ANONYMOUS

HEY NONNY NO!

Hey nonny no!
 Men are fools that wish to die!
 Is't not fine to dance and sing
 When the bells of death do ring?
 Is't not fine to swim in wine, 5
 And turn upon the toe,
 And sing hey nonny no,
 When the winds blow and the seas flow?
 Hey nonny no!

THOMAS CAMPION (1567-1620)

OF CORINNA'S SINGING

When to her lute Corinna sings,
 Her voice revives the leaden strings,
 And doth in highest notes appear
 As any challenged echo clear;

¹ neatly.

But when she doth of mourning speak, 5
 E'en with her sighs the strings do break.
 And as her lute doth live or die,
 Led by her passion, so must I:
 For when of pleasure she doth sing,
 My thoughts enjoy a sudden spring; 10
 But if she doth of sorrow speak,
 E'en from my heart the strings do break.

WHEN THOU MUST HOME

When thou must home to shades of under-
 ground,
 And there arrived, a new admirèd guest,
 The beauteous spirits do engirt thee
 round,
 White Iope, blithe Helen, and the rest,
 To hear the stories of thy finished love 5
 From that smooth tongue whose music
 hell can move;

Then wilt thou speak of banqueting de-
 lights,
 Of masques and revels which sweet youth
 did make,
 Of journeys and great challenges of
 knights,
 And all these triumphs for thy beauty's
 sake; 10
 When thou hast told these honors done to
 thee,
 Then tell, O tell, how thou didst murder
 me.

COME, CHEERFUL DAY

Come, cheerful day, part of my life to
 me;
 For while thou view'st me with thy
 fading light,
 Part of my life doth still depart with thee.
 And I still onward haste to my last
 night.
 Time's fatal wings do ever forward fly: 5
 So every day we live a day we die.

But O ye nights, ordained for barren
 rest,
 How are my days deprived of life in you
 When heavy sleep my soul hath dispossessed,
 By feigned death life sweetly to re-
 new! 10
 Part of my life in that, you life deny:
 So every day we live, a day we die.

NOW WINTER NIGHTS ENLARGE

Now winter nights enlarge
 The number of their hours;
 And clouds their storms discharge
 Upon the airy towers.
 Let now the chimneys blaze, 5
 And cups o'erflow with wine,
 Let well-tuned words amaze
 With harmony divine.
 Now yellow waxen lights
 Shall wait on honey love; 10
 While youthful revels, masques, and
 courtly sights,
 Sleep's leaden spells remove.

This time doth well dispense
 With lovers' long discourse;
 Much speech hath some defence, 15
 Though beauty no remorse.
 All do not all things well:
 Some measures comely tread,
 Some knotted riddles tell,
 Some poems smoothly read. 20
 The summer hath his joys,
 And winter his delights;
 Though love and all his pleasures are but
 toys,
 They shorten tedious nights.

CHERRY-RIPE

There is a garden in her face
 Where roses and white lilies grow;
 A heavenly paradise is that place,
 Wherein all pleasant fruits do flow:
 There cherries grow, which none may
 buy 5
 Till "Cherry-ripe" themselves do cry.

Those cherries fairly do enclose
 Of orient pearl a double row,
 Which when her lovely laughter shows, 9
 They look like rosebuds filled with snow;
 Yet them nor peer nor prince can buy
 Till "Cherry-ripe" themselves do cry.

Her eyes like angels watch them still;
 Her brows like bended bows do stand,
 Threatening with piercing frowns to kill 15
 All that attempt, with eye or hand,
 Those sacred cherries to come nigh
 Till "Cherry-ripe" themselves do cry.

CHANCE AND CHANGE

What if a day, or a month, or a year,
 Crown thy delights, with a thousand
 sweet contentings?
 Cannot a chance of a night or an hour
 Cross thy desires with as many sad tor-
 mentings?
 Fortune, honor, beauty, youth, 5
 Are but blossoms dying;
 Wanton pleasure, doting love,
 Are but shadows flying;
 All our joys are but toys,
 Idle thoughts deceiving; 10
 None have power of an hour
 In their life's bereaving.

Earth's but a point to the world, and a
 man
 Is but a point to the world's comparèd
 centre; 14
 Shall then a point of a point be so vain
 As to triumph in a silly point's adventure?
 All is hazard that we have,
 There is nothing biding;
 Days of pleasure are like streams
 Through fair meadows gliding. 20
 Weal and woe, Time doth go,
 Time is never turning:
 Secret fates guide our states,
 Both in mirth and mourning.

THOMAS DEKKER (1572?—p. 1632)

O SWEET CONTENT

Art thou poor, yet hast thou golden slum-
 bers?
 O sweet content!
 Art thou rich, yet is thy mind perplexed?
 O punishment!
 Dost thou laugh to see how fools are vexed
 To add to golden numbers golden num-
 bers? 6
 O sweet content! O sweet, O sweet content!
 Work apace, apace, apace, apace;
 Honest labor bears a lovely face,
 Then hey nonny nonny, hey nonny nonny!
 Canst drink the waters of the crisped¹
 spring? 11
 O sweet content!

¹ rippling.

Swim'st thou in wealth, yet sink'st in
thine own tears?

O punishment!

Then be that patiently want's burden
bears ¹⁵

No burden bears, but is a king, a king!
O sweet content! O sweet, O sweet con-
tent!

Work apace, apace, apace, apace;

Honest labor bears a lovely face.

Then hey nonny nonny, hey nonny
nonny!

LULLABY

Golden slumbers kiss your eyes,
Smiles awake you when you rise;
Sleep, pretty wantons, do not cry,
And I will sing a lullaby:
Rock them, rock them, lullaby. ⁵

Care is heavy, therefore sleep you;
You are care, and care must keep you;
Sleep, pretty wantons, do not cry,
And I will sing a lullaby:
Rock them, rock them, lullaby. ¹⁰

MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563-1631)

AGINCOURT

Fair stood the wind for France,
When we our sails advance,¹
Nor now to prove our chance
Longer will tarry;
But putting to the main, ⁵
At Caux, the mouth of Seine,
With all his martial train
Landed King Harry.

And taking many a fort,
Furnished in warlike sort, ¹⁰
Marcheth towards Agincourt
In happy hour;
Skirmishing, day by day,
With those that stopped his way,
Where the French general lay ¹⁵
With all his power.

Which,² in his height of pride,
King Henry to deride,
His ransom to provide
To the King sending; ²⁰

Which³ he neglects the while,
As from a nation vile,
Yet with an angry smile,
Their fall portending.

And turning to his men, ²⁵
Quoth our brave Henry then:
"Though they to one be ten
Be not amazèd!
Yet have we well begun:
Battles so bravely won ³⁰
Have ever to the sun
By fame been raised.

"And for myself," quoth he,
"This my full rest⁴ shall be:
England ne'er mourn for me, ³⁵
Nor more esteem me.
Victor I will remain,
Or on this earth lie slain;
Never shall she sustain
Loss to redeem me. ⁴⁰

"Poitiers and Cressy tell,
When most their pride did swell,
Under our swords they fell;
No less our skill is,
Than when our grandsire great, ⁴⁵
Claiming the regal seat,
By many a warlike feat
Lopped the French lilies."

The Duke of York so dread
The eager vaward⁵ led; ⁵⁰
With the main,⁶ Henry sped
Amongst his henchmen:
Exeter had the rear,
A braver man not there!
O Lord, how hot they were ⁵⁵
On the false Frenchmen!

They now to fight are gone:
Armor on armor shone;
Drum now to drum did groan.
To hear, was wonder; ⁶⁰
That,⁷ with the cries they make,
The very earth did shake;
Trumpet to trumpet spake,
Thunder to thunder.

Well it thine age became, ⁶⁵
O noble Erpingham,

¹ raise.

² the French general.

³ the command to send a ransom.

⁵ advance guard.

⁶ main host.

⁴ resolution.

⁷ so that.

Which didst the signal aim
To our hid forces;
When, from a meadow by,
Like a storm suddenly, 70
The English archery
Stuck the French horses,

With Spanish yew so strong,
Arrows a cloth-yard long,
That like to serpents stung, 75
Piercing the weather;
None from his fellow starts,
But, playing manly parts,
And like true English hearts,
Stuck close together. 80

When down their bows they threw,
And forth their bilbows drew,
And on the French they flew,
Not one was tardy:
Arms were from shoulders sent, 85
Scalps to the teeth were rent,
Down the French peasants went:
Our men were hardy.

This while our noble King,
His broad sword brandishing, 90
Down the French host did ding,¹
As to o'erwhelm it;
And many a deep wound lent,
His arms with blood besprent,²
And many a cruel dent 95
Bruised his helmet.

Gloucester, that duke so good,
Next of the royal blood,
For famous England stood, 100
With his brave brother,
Clarence, in steel so bright;
Though but a maiden knight,
Yet in that furious fight
Scarce such another.

Warwick in blood did wade, 105
Oxford the foe invade,
And cruel slaughter made,
Still as they ran up;
Suffolk his axe did ply,
Beaumont and Willoughby 110
Bare them right doughtily,
Ferrers and Fanhope.

Upon Saint Crispin's day
Fought was this noble fray;

Which fame did not delay 115
To England to carry.
O when shall English men
With such acts fill a pen?
Or England breed again
Such a King Harry? 120

BEN JONSON (1573?-1637)

HYMN TO DIANA

Queen and Huntress, chaste and fair,
Now the sun is laid to sleep,
Seated in thy silver chair
State in wonted manner keep:
Hesperus entreats thy light, 5
Goddess excellently bright.

Earth, let not thy envious shade
Dare itself to interpose;
Cynthia's shining orb was made
Heaven to clear when day did close: 10
Bless us then with wishèd sight,
Goddess excellently bright.

Lay thy bow of pearl apart
And thy crystal-shining quiver;
Give unto the flying hart 15
Space to breathe, how short soever:
Thou that mak'st a day of night,
Goddess excellently bright.

SONG TO CELIA

Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup,
And I'll not look for wine.
The thirst that from the soul doth rise 5
Doth ask a drink divine;
But might I of Jove's nectar sup,
I would not change for thine.

I sent thee late a rosy wreath,
Not so much honoring thee 10
As giving it a hope, that there
It could not withered be.
But thou thereon didst only breathe,
And sent'st it back to me; 14
Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,
Not of itself, but thee.

¹ strike.

² besprinkled.

THE TRIUMPH OF CHARIS

See the chariot at hand here of Love,
 Wherein my lady rideth!
 Each that draws is a swan or a dove,
 And well the car Love guideth.
 As she goes, all hearts do duty 5
 Unto her beauty;
 And enamored, do wish, so they might
 But enjoy such a sight,
 That they still were to run by her side,
 Through swords, through seas, whither she
 would ride. 10

Do but look on her eyes, they do light
 All that Love's world compriseth!
 Do but look on her hair, it is bright
 As Love's star when it riseth!
 Do but mark, her forehead's smother 15
 Than words that soothe her;
 And from her arched brows such a grace
 Sheds itself through the face,
 As alone there triumphs to the life
 All the gain, all the good, of the elements'
 strife. 20

Have you seen but a bright lily grow,
 Before rude hands have touched it?
 Have you marked but the fall o' the snow
 Before the soil hath smutched it?
 Have you felt the wool o' the beaver? 25
 Or swan's down ever?
 Or have smelt o' the bud o' the briar?
 Or the nard¹ i' the fire?
 Or have tasted the bag of the bee?
 O so white, O so soft, O so sweet is she! 30

TO THE MEMORY OF MY BELOVED,
MASTER WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

To draw no envy, Shakespeare, on thy
 name,
 Am I thus ample to thy book and fame;
 While I confess thy writings to be such
 As neither man nor muse can praise too
 much.
 'Tis true, and all men's suffrage. But
 these ways 5
 Were not the paths I meant unto thy praise;
 For silliest ignorance on these may light,
 Which, when it sounds at best, but echoes
 right;

¹ spikenard.

Or blind affection, which doth ne'er ad-
 vance
 The truth, but gropes, and urgeth all by
 chance; 10
 Or crafty malice might pretend this praise,
 And think to ruin, where it seemed to
 raise.
 These are, as some infamous bawd or
 whore
 Should praise a matron. What could hurt
 her more?
 But thou art proof against them, and, in-
 deed, 15
 Above the ill fortune of them, or the need.
 I therefore will begin. Soul of the age,
 The applause, delight, the wonder of our
 stage,
 My Shakespeare, rise! I will not lodge thee
 by
 Chaucer, or Spenser, or bid Beaumont lie 20
 A little further, to make thee a room:
 Thou art a monument without a tomb,
 And art alive still while thy book doth
 live,
 And we have wits to read and praise to
 give.
 That I not mix thee so my brain excuses—
 I mean with great, but disproportioned
 Muses; 26
 For if I thought my judgment were of
 years,
 I should commit² thee surely with thy
 peers,
 And tell how far thou didst our Lyly out-
 shine,
 Or sporting Kyd, or Marlowe's mighty
 line. 30
 And though thou hadst small Latin and
 less Greek,
 From thence to honor thee, I would not
 seek
 For names, but call forth thundering
 Æschylus,
 Euripides, and Sophocles to us,
 Pacuvius, Accius, him of Cordova dead, 35
 To life again, to hear thy buskin tread,
 And shake a stage; or when thy socks were
 on,
 Leave thee alone for the comparison
 Of all that insolent Greece or haughty
 Rome
 Sent forth, or since did from their ashes
 come. 40

² compare.

Triumph, my Britain, thou hast one to show

To whom all scenes of Europe homage owe.
He was not of an age, but for all time!

And all the Muses still were in their prime;
When, like Apollo, he came forth to warm
Our ears, or like a Mercury to charm. 46

Nature herself was proud of his designs
And joyed to wear the dressing of his lines,
Which were so richly spun, and woven so fit,
As, since, she will vouchsafe no other wit:
The merry Greek, tart Aristophanes, 51
Neat Terence, witty Plautus, now not
please,

But antiquated and deserted lie,
As they were not of Nature's family.

Yet must I not give Nature all; thy art, 55
My gentle Shakespeare, must enjoy a part:

For though the poet's matter nature be,
His art doth give the fashion; and that he¹

Who casts² to write a living line must
sweat,

(Such as thine are) and strike the second
heat 60

Upon the Muses' anvil, turn the same
(And himself with it) that he thinks to
frame,

Or, for the laurel, he may gain a scorn;
For a good poet's made, as well as born.

And such wert thou; look how the father's
face 65

Lives in his issue, even so the race

Of Shakespeare's mind and manners
brightly shines

In his well turned and true filèd³ lines,
In each of which he seems to shake a lance,

As brandished at the eyes of ignorance. 70

Sweet Swan of Avon! what a sight it were
To see thee in our waters yet appear,

And make those flights upon the banks of
Thames,

That so did take⁴ Eliza⁵ and our James!

But stay, I see thee in the hemisphere 75
Advanced, and made a constellation there!

Shine forth, thou Star of poets, and with
rage

Or influence chide or cheer the drooping
stage,

Which, since thy flight from hence, hath
mourned like night,

And despairs day, but for thy volume's
light.

¹ man.

⁴ captivate.

² plans.

³ polished.

⁵ Queen Elizabeth.

From A PINDARIC ODE

It is not growing like a tree

In bulk, doth make men better be;

Or standing long an oak, three hundred
year,

To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sear:

A lily of a day

5

Is fairer far in May;

Although it fall and die that night,

It was the plant and flower of light.

In small proportions we just beauties see,

And in short measures life may perfect
be. 10

AN EPITAPH ON SALATHIEL PAVY

Weep with me all you that read

This little story;

And know, for whom a tear you shed

Death's self is sorry.

Tw'as a child that so did thrive

5

In grace and feature,

As heaven and nature seemed to strive

Which owned the creature.

Years he numbered scarce thirteen

When fates turned cruel,

10

Yet three filled zodiacs⁶ had he been

The stage's jewel;

And did act, what now we moan,

Old men so duly,

As, sooth, the Parcae⁷ thought him
one, 15

He played so truly.

So, by error, to his fate

They all consented,

But viewing him since, alas, too late!

They have repented;

20

And have sought, to give new birth,

In baths to steep him;

But being so much too good for earth,

Heaven vows to keep him.

JOHN DONNE (1573-1631)

GO AND CATCH A FALLING STAR

Go and catch a falling star,

Get with child a mandrake root,

Tell me where all past years are,

Or who cleft the Devil's foot;

⁶ years.

⁷ the Fates.

Teach me to hear mermaids singing, 5
 Or to keep off envy's stinging,
 And find
 What wind
 Serves to advance an honest mind.

If thou be'st born to strange sights, 10
 Things invisible go see,
 Ride ten thousand days and nights
 Till Age snow white hairs on thee;
 Thou, when thou return'st, wilt tell me
 All strange wonders that befell thee, 15
 And swear
 No where
 Lives a woman true and fair.

If thou find'st one, let me know;
 Such a pilgrimage were sweet. 20
 Yet do not; I would not go,
 Though at next door we might meet.
 Though she were true when you met her,
 And last till you write your letter,
 Yet she 25
 Will be
 False, ere I come, to two or three.

LOVE'S DEITY

I long to talk with some old lover's ghost
 Who died before the god of love was
 born.
 I cannot think that he who then loved
 most
 Sunk so low as to love one which did
 scorn.
 But since this god produced a destiny, 5
 And that vice-nature, custom, lets it be,
 I must love her that loves not me.

Sure, they which made him god, meant not
 so much,
 Nor he in his young godhead practiced it.
 But when an even flame two hearts did
 touch, 10
 His office was indulgently to fit
 Actives to passives. Correspondency
 Only his subject was; it cannot be
 Love, till I love her who loves me.

But every modern god will now extend 15
 His vast prerogative as far as Jove:
 To rage, to lust, to write to, to commend,
 All is the purlieu of the god of love.

O! were we wakened by this tyranny
 To ungod this child again, it could not
 be 20
 I should love her who loves not me.

Rebel and atheist too, why murmur I,
 As though I felt the worst that love
 could do?
 Love may make me leave loving, or might
 try
 A deeper plague, to make her love me
 too; 25
 Which, since she loves before, I'm loth to
 see.
 Falsehood is worse than hate; and that
 must be,
 If she whom I love should love me.

SWEETEST LOVE, I DO NOT GO

Sweetest love, I do not go
 For weariness of thee,
 Nor in hope the world can show
 A fitter love for me;
 But since that I 5
 At the last must part, 'tis best
 Thus to use myself in jest,
 By feignèd deaths to die.

Yesternight the sun went hence,
 And yet is here today; 10
 He hath no desire nor sense,
 Nor half so short a way;
 Then fear not me,
 But believe that I shall make
 Speedier journeys, since I take 15
 More wings and spurs than he.

O how feeble is man's power,
 That, if good fortune fall,
 Cannot add another hour,
 Nor a lost hour recall; 20
 But come bad chance,
 And we join to it our strength,
 And we teach it art and length,
 Itself o'er us to advance.

When thou sigh'st, thou sigh'st not wind,
 But sigh'st my soul away; 26
 When thou weep'st, unkindly kind,
 My life's blood doth decay:
 It cannot be

That thou lovest me as thou say'st, 30
If in thine my life thou waste,
That art the best of me.

Let not thy divining heart
Forethink me any ill;
Destiny may take thy part 35
And may thy fears fulfil.
But think that we
Are but turned aside to sleep:
They who one another keep
Alive, ne'er parted be. 40

DEATH

Death, be not proud, though some have
callèd thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost
overthrow
Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou
kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pic-
ture be, 5
Much pleasure, then from thee much more
must flow;
And soonest our best men with thee do
go—
Rest of their bones and souls' delivery!
Thou'rt slave to Fate, chance, kings, and
desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness
dwell, 10
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as
well,
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st
thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more: Death, thou
shalt die!

FRANCIS BEAUMONT (1584–1616)

EVEN SUCH IS MAN

Like to the falling of a star,
Or as the flights of eagles are,
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew,
Or like a wind that chafes the flood, 5
Or bubbles which on water stood:

Even such is man, whose borrowed light
Is straight called in and paid to night.
The wind blows out, the bubble dies,
The spring intombed in autumn lies; 10
The dew's dried up, the star is shot,
The flight is past, and man forgot.

ON THE TOMBS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Mortality, behold and fear!
What a change of flesh is here!
Think how many royal bones
Sleep within this heap of stones;
Here they lie had realms and lands, 5
Who now want strength to stir their hands;
Where from their pulpits sealed with dust
They preach, "In greatness is no trust."
Here's an acre sown indeed
With the richest, royal'st seed 10
That the earth did e'er suck in
Since the first man died for sin;
Here the bones of birth have cried,
"Though gods they were, as men they
died."
Here are sands, ignoble things, 15
Dropt from the ruined sides of kings.
Here's a world of pomp and state
Buried in dust, once dead by fate.

JOHN FLETCHER (1579–1625)

SWEETEST MELANCHOLY

Hence, all you vain delights,
As short as are the nights
Wherein you spend your folly!
There's nought in this life sweet,
If man were wise to see't, 5
But only melancholy;
O sweetest melancholy!

Welcome, folded arms and fixèd eyes,
A sigh that piercing mortifies,
A look that's fastened to the ground, 10
A tongue chained up without a sound.
Fountain heads and pathless groves,
Places which pale Passion loves;
Moonlight walks, when all the fowls
Are warmly housed save bats and owls.

A midnight bell, a parting groan, 16
 These are the sounds we feed upon.
 Then stretch our bones in a still gloomy
 valley;
 Nothing's so dainty sweet as lovely
 melancholy.

CARE-CHARMING SLEEP

Care-charming Sleep, thou easer of all
 woes,
 Brother to Death, sweetly thyself dispose
 On this afflicted prince; fall like a cloud
 In gentle showers; give nothing that is
 loud
 Or painful to his slumbers; easy, sweet, 5
 And as a purling stream, thou son of Night,
 Pass by his troubled senses; sing his pain
 Like hollow murmuring wind or silver rain;
 Into this prince gently, oh, gently slide,
 And kiss him into slumbers like a bride. 10

SONG TO BACCHUS

God Lyæus, ever young,
 Ever honored, ever sung,
 Stained with blood of lusty grapes,
 In a thousand lusty shapes,
 Dance upon the mazer's¹ brim, 5
 In the crimson liquor swim;
 From thy plenteous hand divine
 Let a river run with wine;
 God of youth, let this day here
 Enter neither care nor fear! 10

JOHN WEBSTER (1580?–1625?)

A DIRGE

Call for the robin-redbreast and the wren,
 Since o'er shady groves they hover,
 And with leaves and flowers do cover
 The friendless bodies of unburied men.
 Call unto his funeral dole 5
 The ant, the field-mouse, and the mole,
 To rear him hillocks that shall keep him
 warm,
 And, when gay tombs are robbed, sustain
 no harm;
 But keep the wolf far thence, that's foe to
 men, 9
 For with his nails he'll dig them up again.

¹ cup's.

HARK, NOW EVERYTHING IS STILL

Hark, now everything is still,
 The screech-owl and the whistler² shrill,
 Call upon our dame aloud,
 And bid her quickly don her shroud.
 Much you had of land and rent,— 5
 Your length in clay's now competent;
 A long war disturbed your mind,—
 Here your perfect peace is signed.
 Of what is't fools make such vain keeping?
 Sin their conception, their birth weeping, 10
 Their life a general mist of error,
 Their death a hideous storm of terror.
 Strew your hair with powders sweet,
 Don clean linen, bathe your feet,
 And—the foul fiend more to check— 15
 A crucifix let bless your neck.
 'Tis now full tide 'tween night and day;
 End your groan, and come away.

WILLIAM BROWNE (1591–1643?)

ON THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF
PEMBROKE

Underneath this sable herse³
 Lies the subject of all verse:
 Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother:
 Death, ere thou hast slain another
 Fair and learn'd and good as she,
 Time shall throw a dart at thee.

ELIZABETHAN PROSE

SIR THOMAS NORTH (1535?–1601?)

THE DEATH OF CÆSAR

From THE LIFE OF JULIUS CÆSAR

The Romans inclining to Cæsar's prosper-
 ity, and taking the bit in the mouth,
 supposing that to be ruled by one man
 alone, it would be a good mean for them
 to take breath a little, after so many
 troubles and miseries as they had abidden
 in these civil wars, they chose him per-
 petual Dictator. This was a plain tyr-
 anny: for to this absolute power of Dic-
 tator they added this, never to be [10
 afraid to be deposed. Cicero propounded
 before the Senate that they should give

² plover.³ tomb.

him such honors as were meet for a man; howbeit others afterwards added to, honors beyond all reason. For, men striving who should most honor him, they made him hateful and troublesome to themselves that most favored him, by reason of the unmeasurable greatness and honors which they gave him. There- [20 upon it is reported that even they that most hated him were no less favorers and furtherers of his honors than they that most flattered him; because they might have greater occasions to rise, and that it might appear they had just cause and color to attempt that they did against him.

And now for himself, after he had ended his civil wars he did so honor- [30 ably behave himself that there was no fault to be found in him; and therefore, methinks, amongst other honors they gave him, he rightly deserved this, that they should build him a temple of clemency, to thank him for his courtesy he had used unto them in his victory. For he pardoned many of them that had borne arms against him, and, furthermore, did prefer some of them to honor and [40 office in the commonwealth: as, amongst others, Cassius and Brutus, both the which were made Prætors. And where Pompey's images had been thrown down, he caused them to be set up again; whereupon Cicero said then, That Cæsar setting up Pompey's images again, he made his own to stand the surer. And when some of his friends did counsel him to have a guard for the safety of his person, and [50 some also did offer themselves to serve him, he would never consent to it, but said, It was better to die once, than always to be afraid of death.

* * * * *

But his enemies that envied his greatness did not stick to find fault withal. As Cicero the orator, when one said, Tomorrow the star Lyra will rise: Yea, said he, at the commandment of Cæsar, as if men were compelled to say and think by [60 Cæsar's edict. But the chiefest cause that made him mortally hated was the covetous desire he had to be called king: which first gave the people just cause, and next

his secret enemies honest color, to bear him ill-will.

* * * * *

The people went straight unto Marcus Brutus, who from his father came of the first Brutus, and by his mother, of the first Brutus, and by his mother, of the house of the Servilians, a noble house [70 as any was in Rome, and was also nephew and son-in-law of Marcus Cato. Notwithstanding, the great honors and favors Cæsar showed unto him kept him back, that of himself alone he did not conspire nor consent to depose him of his kingdom. For Cæsar did not only save his life after the battle of Pharsalia when Pompey fled, and did at his request also save many more of his friends beside, but further- [80 more he put a marvellous confidence in him. For he had already preferred him to the Prætorship for that year, and furthermore was appointed to be Consul the fourth year after that, having through Cæsar's friendship obtained it before Cassius, who likewise made suit for the same; and Cæsar also, as it is reported, said in this contention, Indeed Cassius hath alleged best reason, but yet shall [90 he not be chosen before Brutus. Some one day, accusing Brutus while he practised this conspiracy, Cæsar would not hear of it, but clapping his hand on his body, told them, Brutus will look for this skin: meaning thereby that Brutus for his virtue deserved to rule after him, but yet that for ambition's sake he would not show himself unthankful or dishonorable.

Now they that desired change, and [100 wished Brutus only their prince and governor above all other, they durst not come to him themselves to tell him what they would have him to do, but in the night did cast sundry papers into the Prætor's seat where he gave audience, and the most of them to this effect: Thou sleepest, Brutus, and art not Brutus indeed. Cassius, finding Brutus' ambition stirred up the more by these ambitious bills, did [110 prick him forward, and egg him on the more, for a private quarrel he had conceived against Cæsar, the circumstance whereof we have set down more at large in Brutus' life. Cæsar also had Cassius in great jealousy, and suspected him

much; whereupon he said on a time to his friends, What will Cassius do, think ye? I like not his pale looks. Another time when Cæsar's friends complained unto [120 him of Antonius and Dolabella, that they pretended some mischief towards him, he answered them again, As for those fat men and smooth-combed heads, quoth he, I never reckon of them; but these pale-visaged and carrion lean people, I fear them most; meaning Brutus and Cassius.

Certainly, destiny may easier be foreseen than avoided, considering the strange and wonderful signs that were said [130 to be seen before Cæsar's death. For touching the fires in the element, and spirits running up and down in the night, and also the solitary birds to be seen at noondays sitting in the great marketplace, are not all these signs perhaps worth the noting, in such a wonderful chance as happened? But Strabo the Philosopher writeth that divers men were seen going up and down in fire; and furthermore [140 that there was a slave of the soldiers that did cast a marvellous burning flame out of his hand, insomuch as they that saw it thought he had been burnt, but when the fire was out it was found he had no hurt. Cæsar self also doing sacrifice unto the gods, found that one of the beasts which was sacrificed had no heart; and that was a strange thing in nature, how a beast could live without a heart. Further- [150 more, there was a certain soothsayer that had given Cæsar warning long time afore, to take heed of the day of the Ides of March (which is the fifteenth of the month), for on that day he should be in great danger. That day being come, Cæsar going unto the Senate-house, and speaking merrily unto the soothsayer, told him, The Ides of March be come; So be they, softly answered the sooth- [160 sayer, but yet are they not past. And the very day before Cæsar, supping with Marcus Lepidus, sealed certain letters as he was wont to do at the board; so talk falling out amongst them, reasoning what death was best, he, preventing their opinions, cried out aloud, Death unlooked for. Then going to bed the same night as his manner was, and lying with his wife Calpurnia, all the windows and [170

doors of his chamber flying open, the noise awoke him, and made him afraid when he saw such light; but more when he heard his wife Calpurnia, being fast asleep, weep and sigh, and put forth many fumbling, lamentable speeches. For she dreamed that Cæsar was slain, and that she had him in her arms. Others also do deny that she had any such dream, as, amongst other, Titus Livius writ- [180 eth that it was in this sort. The Senate having set upon the top of Cæsar's house, for an ornament and setting forth of the same, a certain pinnacle, Calpurnia dreamed that she saw it broken down, and that she thought she lamented and wept for it. Insomuch that Cæsar rising in the morning, she prayed him if it were possible not to go out of the doors that day, but to adjourn the session of [190 the Senate until another day. Thereby it seemed that Cæsar likewise did fear and suspect somewhat, because his wife Calpurnia until that time was never given to any fear or superstition; and then for that he saw her so troubled in mind with this dream she had. But much more afterwards, when the soothsayers, having sacrificed many beasts one after another, told him that none did like [200 them; then he determined to send Antonius to adjourn the session of the Senate.

* * * * *

But in the meantime came Decius Brutus, surnamed Albinus, in whom Cæsar put such confidence that in his last will and testament he had appointed him to be his next heir, and yet was of the conspiracy with Cassius and Brutus; he, fearing that if Cæsar did adjourn the [210 session that day the conspiracy would out, laughed the soothsayers to scorn and reprov'd Cæsar, saying that he gave the Senate occasion to dislike with him, and that they might think he mocked them, considering that by his commandment they were assembled, and that they were ready willingly to grant him all things, and to proclaim him king of all the provinces of the empire of Rome [220 out of Italy, and that he should wear his diadem in all other places both by sea

and land. And furthermore, that if any man should tell them from him they should depart for that present time, and return again when Calpurnia should have better dreams, what would his enemies and ill-willers say, and how could they like of his friend's words? And who could persuade them otherwise but that [230 they would think his dominion a slavery unto them and tyrannical in himself? And yet if it be so, said he, that you utterly mislike of this day, it is better that you go yourself in person, and, saluting the Senate, to dismiss them till another time. Therewithal he took Cæsar by the hand and led him out of his house.

Cæsar was not gone far from his house but a bondman, a stranger, did what [240 he could to speak with him; and when he saw he was put back by the great press and multitude of people that followed him, he went straight into his house and put himself into Calpurnia's hands to be kept till Cæsar came back again, telling her that he had great matters to impart unto him. And one Artemidorus also, born in the Isle of Gnidos, a doctor of rhetoric in the Greek tongue, who by [250 means of his profession was very familiar with certain of Brutus' confederates, and therefore knew the most part of all their practices against Cæsar, came and brought him a little bill written with his own hand, of all that he meant to tell him. He, marking how Cæsar received all the supplications that were offered him, and that he gave them straight to his men that were about him, pressed nearer to [260 him, and said: Cæsar, read this memorial to yourself, and that quickly, for they be matters of great weight, and touch you nearly. Cæsar took it of him but could never read it, though he many times attempted it, for the number of people that did salute him; but holding it still in his hand, keeping it to himself, went on withal into the Senate-house. Howbeit other are of opinion that it was some [270 man else that gave him that memorial, and not Artemidorus, who did what he could all the way as he went to give it Cæsar, but he was always repulsed by the people. For these things, they may seem to come by chance, but the place

where the murder was prepared, and where the Senate were assembled, and where also there stood up an image of Pompey dedicated by himself amongst [280 other ornaments which he gave unto the theatre: all these were manifest proofs that it was the ordinance of some god that made this treason to be executed, specially in that very place. It is also reported that Cassius (although otherwise he did favor the doctrine of Epicurus), beholding the image of Pompey, before they entered into the action of their traitorous enterprise, he did softly [290 call upon it to aid him. But the instant danger of the present time, taking away his former reason, did suddenly put him into a furious passion, and made him like a man half beside himself.

Now Antonius, that was a faithful friend to Cæsar, and a valiant man besides of his hands, Decius Brutus Albinus entertained out of the Senate-house, having begun a long tale of set pur- [300 pose. So Cæsar coming into the house, all the Senate stood up on their feet to do him honor. Then part of Brutus' company and confederates stood round about Cæsar's chair, and part of them also came towards him, as though they made suit with Metellus Cimber to call home his brother again from banishment; and thus prosecuting still their suit, they followed Cæsar till he was set in his chair. [310 Who, denying their petitions, and being offended with them one after another, because the more they were denied the more they pressed upon him, and were the earnestest with him, Metellus, at length, taking his gown with both his hands, pulled it over his neck, which was the sign given the confederates to set upon him. Then Casca behind him strake him in the neck with his sword; [320 howbeit, the wound was not great nor mortal, because it seemed the fear of such a devilish attempt did amaze him and take his strength from him, that he killed him not at the first blow. But Cæsar turning straight unto him, caught hold of his sword and held it hard; and they both cried out, Cæsar in Latin, O vile traitor Casca, what doest thou? And Casca in Greek to his brother, Brother, [330

help me. At the beginning of this stir they that were present, not knowing of the conspiracy, were so amazed with the horrible sight they saw they had no power to fly, neither to help him, not so much as once to make any outcry. They on the other side that had conspired his death compassed him in on every side with their swords drawn in their hands, that Cæsar turned him nowhere but he was [340 stricken at by some, and still had naked swords in his face, and was hacked and mangled among them as a wild beast taken of hunters. For it was agreed among them that every man should give him a wound, because all their parts should be in this murder; and then Brutus himself gave him one wound. Men report also that Cæsar did still defend himself against the rest, running every way with his [350 body; but when he saw Brutus, with his sword drawn in his hand, then he pulled his gown over his head and made no more resistance, and was driven, either casually or purposely, by the counsel of the conspirators, against the base whereupon Pompey's image stood, which ran all of a gore-blood till he was slain. Thus it seemed that the image took just revenge of Pompey's enemy, being thrown [360 down on the ground at his feet, and yielding up his ghost there, for the number of wounds he had upon him. For it is reported that he had three-and-twenty wounds upon his body; and divers of the conspirators did hurt themselves, striking one body with so many blows.

When Cæsar was slain the Senate (though Brutus stood in the midst among them, as though he would have said [370 somewhat touching this fact) presently ran out of the house, and flying, filled all the city with marvellous fear and tumult. Insomuch as some did shut-to their doors, others forsook their shops and warehouses, and others ran to the place to see what the matter was; and others also, that had seen it, ran home to their houses again. But Antonius and Lepidus, which were two of Cæsar's chiefest friends, [380 secretly conveying themselves away, fled into other men's houses and forsook their own. Brutus and his confederates on the other side, being yet hot with this murder

they had committed, having their swords drawn in their hands, came all in a troop together out of the Senate and went into the market-place; not as men that made countenance to fly, but otherwise boldly holding up their heads like men of [390 courage, and called to the people to defend their liberty, and stayed to speak with every great personage whom they met in their way. Of them, some followed this troop, and went amongst them as if they had been of the conspiracy, and falsely challenged part of the honor with them; amongst them was Caius Octavius and Lentulus Spinther. But both of them were afterwards put to death for their [400 vain covetousness of honor by Antonius and Octavius Cæsar the younger, and yet had no part of that honor for the which they were put to death, nor did any man believe that they were any of the confederates or of counsel with them. For they that did put them to death took revenge rather of the will they had to offend than of any fact they had committed. [410

The next morning Brutus and his confederates came into the market-place to speak unto the people, who gave them such audience that it seemed they neither greatly reprov'd nor allowed the fact; for by their great silence they showed that they were sorry for Cæsar's death, and also that they did reverence Brutus. Now the Senate granted general pardon for all that was past, and to pacify [420 every man ordained besides that Cæsar's funerals should be honored as a god, and established all things that he had done; and gave certain provinces also and convenient honors unto Brutus and his confederates, whereby every man thought all things were brought to good peace and quietness again. But when they had opened Cæsar's testament and found a liberal legacy of money bequeathed [430 unto every citizen of Rome, and that they saw his body (which was brought into the market-place) all bemangled with gashes of swords, then there was no order to keep the multitude and common people quiet, but they plucked up forms, tables and stools, and laid them all about the body, and setting them afire, burnt the

corpse. Then when the fire was well kindled, they took the firebrands and [440] went unto their houses that had slain Cæsar, to set them afire. Others also ran up and down the city to see if they could meet with any of them, to cut them in pieces; howbeit they could meet with never a man of them, because they had locked themselves up safely in their houses. There was one of Cæsar's friends called Cinna, that had a marvellous strange and terrible dream the night be- [450] fore. He dreamed that Cæsar bade him to supper, and that he refused and would not go; then that Cæsar took him by the hand and led him against his will. Now Cinna hearing at that time that they burnt Cæsar's body in the market-place, notwithstanding that he feared his dream and had an ague on him besides, he went into the market-place to honor his funerals. When he came thither one of [460] the mean sort asked him what his name was. He was straight called by his name. The first man told it to another, and that other unto another, so that it ran straight through them all, that he was one of them that murdered Cæsar (for indeed one of the traitors to Cæsar was also called Cinna, as himself); wherefore taking him for Cinna the murderer, they fell upon him with such fury that they presently [470] despatched him in the market-place. This stir and fury made Brutus and Cassius more afraid than of all that was past, and therefore within few days after they departed out of Rome; and touching their doings afterwards, and what calamity they suffered till their deaths, we have written it at large in the life of Brutus.

Cæsar died at six-and-fifty years of age, and Pompey also lived not passing [480] four years more than he. So he reaped no other fruit of all his reign and dominion, which he had so vehemently desired all his life and pursued with such extreme danger, but a vain name only, and a superficial glory that procured him the envy and hatred of his country. But his great prosperity and good fortune that favored him all his lifetime did continue afterwards in the revenge of his [490] death, pursuing the murderers both by sea and land till they had not left a man

more to be executed of all them that were actors or counsellors in the conspiracy of his death. Furthermore, of all the chances that happen unto men upon the earth, that which came to Cassius above all other is most to be wondered at. For he being overcome in battle at the journey of Philippi, slew himself with the [500] same sword with the which he strake Cæsar. Again, of signs in the element, the great comet which seven nights together was seen very bright after Cæsar's death, the eighth night after was never seen more. Also the brightness of the sun was darkened, the which all that year through rose very pale and shined not out, whereby it gave but small heat; therefore the air, being very cloudy and dark [510] by the weakness of the heat that could not come forth, did cause the earth to bring forth but raw and unripe fruit, which rotted before it could ripe.

But above all, the ghost that appeared unto Brutus showed plainly that the gods were offended with the murder of Cæsar. The vision was thus. Brutus being ready to pass over his army from the city of Abydos to the other coast lying [520] directly against it, slept every night (as his manner was) in his tent, and being yet awake, thinking of his affairs (for by report he was as careful a captain, and lived with as little sleep, as ever man did), he thought he heard a noise at his tent door, and looking toward the light of the lamp that waxed very dim, he saw a horrible vision of a man of wonderful greatness and dreadful look, which at [530] the first made him marvellously afraid. But when he saw that it did him no hurt, but stood by his bedside and said nothing, at length he asked him what he was. The image answered him: I am thy ill angel, Brutus, and thou shalt see me by the city of Philippi. Then Brutus replied again, and said: Well, I shall see thee then. Therewithal, the spirit presently vanished from him. After that time [540] Brutus being in battle near unto the city of Philippi, against Antonius and Octavius Cæsar, at the first battle he won the victory, and overthrowing all them that withstood him, he drave them into young Cæsar's camp, which he took. The

second battle being at hand, this spirit appeared again unto him, but spake never a word. Thereupon Brutus, knowing he should die, did put himself to all hazard [550 in battle, but yet fighting could not be slain. So seeing his men put to flight and overthrown, he ran unto a little rock not far off, and there setting his sword's point to his breast, fell upon it and slew himself, but yet as it is reported, with the help of his friend that despatched him.

JOHN LYLY (1554?-1606)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

From EUPHUES AND HIS ENGLAND

This queen being deceased, Elizabeth, being of the age of twenty-two years, of more beauty than honor, and yet of more honor than any earthly creature, was called from a prisoner to be a prince, from the castle to the crown, from the fear of losing her head, to be supreme head.

Touching the beauty of this prince, her countenance, her personage, her majesty, I cannot think that it may be suffi- [10 ciently commended, when it cannot be too much marveled at; so that I am constrained to say as Praxitiles did, when he began to paint Venus and her son, who doubted whether the world could afford colors good enough for two such fair faces, and I, whether our tongue can yield words to blaze that beauty, the perfection whereof none can imagine; which seeing it is so, I must do like those that want [20 a clear sight, who, being not able to discern the sun in the sky, are enforced to behold it in the water. Zeuxis, having before him fifty fair virgins of Sparta whereby to draw one amiable Venus, said that fifty more fairer than those could not minister sufficient beauty to show the goddess of beauty; therefore, being in despair either by art to shadow her, or by imagination to comprehend her, he [30 drew in a table a fair temple, the gates open, and Venus going in so as nothing could be perceived but her back, wherein he used such cunning that Apelles himself, seeing this work, wished that Venus would

turn her face, saying that if it were in all parts agreeable to the back, he would become apprentice to Zeuxis, and slave to Venus. In the like manner fareth it with me, for having all the ladies in Italy, [40 more than fifty hundred, whereby to color Elizabeth, I must say with Zeuxis that as many more will not suffice, and therefore in as great an agony paint her court with her back towards you, for that I cannot by art portray her beauty, wherein, though I want the skill to do it as Zeuxis did, yet viewing it narrowly, and comparing it wisely, you all will say that if her face be answerable to her back, you [50 will like my handicraft and become her handmaids. In the mean season, I leave you gazing until she turn her face, imagining her to be such a one as nature framed, to that end that no art should imitate, wherein she hath proved herself to be exquisite, and painters to be apes.

This beautiful mold when I beheld to be indued with chastity, temperance, mildness, and all other good gifts of na- [60 ture (as hereafter shall appear), when I saw her to surpass all in beauty, and yet a virgin, to excel all in piety, and yet a prince, to be inferior to none in all the lineaments of the body, and yet superior to every one in all gifts of the mind, I began thus to pray, that as she hath lived forty years a virgin in great majesty, so she may live four score years a mother with great joy, that as with her we have [70 long time had peace and plenty, so by her we may ever have quietness and abundance, wishing this even from the bottom of a heart that wisheth well to England, though feareth ill, that either the world may end before she die, or she live to see her children's children in the world; otherwise how tickle their state is that now triumph, upon what a twist they hang that now are in honor, [80 they that live shall see, which I to think on, sigh! But God for his mercy's sake, Christ for his merit's sake, the Holy Ghost for his name's sake, grant to that realm comfort without any ill chance, and the prince they have without any other change, that the longer she liveth the sweeter she may smell, like the bird Ibis, that she may be triumphant in victories

like the palm tree, fruitful in her [90
age like the vine, in all ages prosperous, to
all men gracious, in all places glorious,
so that there be no end of her praise until
the end of all flesh.

Thus did I often talk with myself, and
wish with mine whole soul.

Why should I talk of her sharp wit,
excellent wisdom, exquisite learning, and
all other qualities of the mind, wherein she
seemeth as far to excel those that have [100
been accounted singular, as the learned
have surpassed those that have been
thought simple.

In questioning, not inferior to Nicaulia,
the queen of Saba, that did put so many
hard doubts to Solomon; equal to Nicos-
trata in the Greek tongue, who was
thought to give precepts for the better
perfection; more learned in the Latin
than Amalasunta; passing Aspasia in [110
philosophy, who taught Pericles; exceed-
ing in judgment Themistoclea, who in-
structed Pythagoras. Add to these qual-
ities, those that none of these had: the
French tongue, the Spanish, the Italian,
not mean in every one, but excellent in
all; readier to correct escapes in those
languages than to be controlled; fitter to
teach others than learn of any; more able
to add new rules than to err in the [120
old; insomuch as there is no ambassador
that cometh into her court but she is will-
ing and able both to understand his mes-
sage and utter her mind; not like unto the
kings of Assyria, who answer ambassadors
by messengers, while they themselves
either dally in sin or snort in sleep. Her
godly zeal to learning, with her great
skill, hath been so manifestly approved
that I cannot tell whether she deserve [130
more honor for her knowledge, or admira-
tion for her courtesy, who in great pomp
hath twice directed her progress unto the
universities with no less joy to the stu-
dents than glory to her state. Where,
after long and solemn disputations in
law, physic, and divinity, not as one
wearied with scholars' arguments, but
wedded to their orations, when every
one feared to offend in length, she [140
in her own person, with no less praise to
her Majesty than delight to her subjects,
with a wise and learned conclusion, both

gave them thanks, and put herself to
pains. O noble pattern of a princely
mind, not like to the kings of Persia, who
in their progresses did nothing else but
cut sticks to drive away the time, nor
like the delicate lives of the Sybarites, who
would not admit any art to be exer- [150
cised within their city that might make
the least noise. Her wit so sharp, that
if I should repeat the apt answers, the
subtle questions, the fine speeches, the
pithy sentences, which on the sudden
she hath uttered, they would rather breed
admiration than credit. But such are
the gifts that the living God hath indued
her withal, that look in what art or lan-
guage, wit or learning, virtue or beauty [160
any one hath particularly excelled most,
she only hath generally exceeded every
one in all, insomuch that there is nothing
to be added that either man would wish
in a woman, or God doth give to a crea-
ture.

I let pass her skill in music, her knowl-
edge in all the other sciences, whenas I
fear lest by my simplicity I should make
them less than they are, in seeking to [170
show how great they are, unless I were
praising her in the gallery of Olympia,
where giving forth one word, I might
hear seven.

But all these graces, although they be
to be wondered at, yet her politic gov-
ernment, her prudent counsel, her zeal to
religion, her clemency to those that sub-
mit, her stoutness to those that threaten,
so far exceed all other virtues that [180
they are more easy to be marveled at than
imitated.

Two and twenty years hath she borne
the sword with such justice, that neither
offenders could complain of rigor, nor
the innocent of wrong; yet so tempered
with mercy as malefactors have been
sometimes pardoned upon hope of grace,
and the injured requited to ease their
grief, insomuch that in the whole [190
course of her glorious reign, it could never
be said that either the poor were oppressed
without remedy, or the guilty repressed
without cause, bearing this engraven in
her noble heart, that justice without
mercy were extreme injury, and pity
without equity plain partiality, and that

it is as great tyranny not to mitigate laws, as iniquity to break them.

Her care for the flourishing of the [200 Gospel hath well appeared, whenas neither the curses of the Pope (which are blessings to good people) nor the threatenings of kings (which are perilous to a prince) nor the persuasions of papists (which are honey to the mouth) could either fear her or allure her to violate the holy league contracted with Christ, or to maculate the blood of the ancient Lamb, which is Christ. But always constant [210 in the true faith, she hath to the exceeding joy of her subjects, to the unspeakable comfort of her soul, to the great glory of God, established that religion the maintenance whereof she rather seeketh to confirm by fortitude, than leave off for fear, knowing that there is nothing that smelleth sweeter to the Lord than a sound spirit, which neither the hosts of the ungodly nor the horror of death can [220 either remove or move.

This Gospel with invincible courage, with rare constancy, with hot zeal, she hath maintained in her own countries without change, and defended against all kingdoms that sought change, insomuch that all nations round about her, threatening alteration, shaking swords, throwing fire, menacing famine, murder, destruction, desolation, she only hath [230 stood like a lamp on the top of a hill, not fearing the blasts of the sharp winds, but trusting in His providence that rideth upon the wings of the four winds. Next followeth the love she beareth to her subjects, who no less tendereth them than the apple of her own eye, showing herself a mother to the afflicted, a physician to the sick, a sovereign and mild governess to all. [240

Touching her magnanimity, her majesty, her estate royal, there was neither Alexander, nor Galba the Emperor, nor any, that might be compared with her.

This is she that, resembling the noble queen of Navarre, useth the marigold for her flower, which at the rising of the sun openeth her leaves, and at the setting

shutteth them, referring all her actions and endeavors to him that ruleth the [250 sun. This is that Cæsar, that first bound the crocodile to the palm tree, bridling those that sought to rein her. This is that good pelican, that to feed her people spareth not to rend her own person. This is that mighty eagle, that hath thrown dust into the eyes of the hart that went about to work destruction to her subjects, into whose wings although the blind beetle would have crept, and [260 so being carried into her nest, destroyed her young ones, yet hath she with the virtue of her feathers, consumed that fly in his own fraud. She hath exiled the swallow that sought to spoil the grasshopper, and given bitter almonds to the ravenous wolves that endeavored to devour the silly lambs, burning even with the breath of her mouth like the princely stag, the serpents that were engen- [270 dered by the breath of the huge elephant, so that now all her enemies are as whist as the bird Attagen, who never singeth any tune after she is taken,—nor they, being so overtaken.

But whither do I wade, ladies, as one forgetting himself; thinking to sound the depth of her virtues with a few fathoms, when there is no bottom; for I know not how it cometh to pass that, being [280 in this labyrinth, I may sooner lose myself than find the end.

Behold, ladies, in this glass a queen, a woman, a virgin, in all gifts of the body, in all graces of the mind, in all perfection of either, so far to excel all men, that I know not whether I may think the place too bad for her to dwell among men.

To talk of other things in that court were to bring eggs after apples, or [290 after the setting out of the sun, to tell a tale of a shadow.

But this I say, that all offices are looked to with great care, that virtue is embraced of all, vice hated, religion daily increased, manners reformed, that whoso seeth the place there, will think it rather a church for divine service than a court for princes' delight.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-1586)

From THE DEFENCE OF POESY

Chaucer, undoubtedly, did excellently in his *Troilus and Criseyde*; of whom, truly, I know not whether to marvel more, either that he in that misty time could see so clearly, or that we in this clear age walk so stumbingly after him. Yet had he great wants, fit to be forgiven in so reverend antiquity. I account the *Mirror of Magistrates* meetly furnished of beautiful parts; and in the Earl of [10] Surrey's lyrics many things tasting of a noble birth, and worthy of a noble mind. The *Shepherd's Calendar* hath much poetry in his eclogues, indeed worthy the reading, if I be not deceived. That same framing of his style to an old rustic language I dare not allow, since neither Theocritus in Greek, Virgil in Latin, nor Sannazzaro in Italian did affect it. Besides these, I do not remember to have [20] seen but few (to speak boldly) printed, that have poetical sinews in them. For proof whereof, let but most of the verses be put in prose, and then ask the meaning, and it will be found that one verse did but beget another, without ordering at the first what should be at the last; which becomes a confused mass of words, with a tinkling sound of rime, barely accompanied with reason. [30]

Our tragedies and comedies not without cause cried out against, observing rules neither of honest civility nor of skilful poetry, excepting *Gorboduc*,—again I say of those that I have seen. Which notwithstanding as it is full of stately speeches and well-sounding phrases, climbing to the height of Seneca's style, and as full of notable morality, which it doth most delightfully teach, and so obtain [40] the very end of poesy; yet in truth it is very defectious in the circumstances, which grieveth me, because it might not remain as an exact model of all tragedies. For it is faulty both in place and time, the two necessary companions of all corporal actions. For where the stage should always represent but one place, and the uttermost time presupposed in it should

be, both by Aristotle's precept and [50] common reason, but one day; there is both many days and many places inartificially imagined.

But if it be so in *Gorboduc*, how much more in all the rest? where you shall have Asia of the one side, and Afric of the other, and so many other under-kingdoms, that the player, when he cometh in, must ever begin with telling where he is, or else the tale will not be [60] conceived. Now ye shall have three ladies walk to gather flowers, and then we must believe the stage to be a garden. By and by we hear news of shipwreck in the same place, and then we are to blame if we accept it not for a rock. Upon the back of that comes out a hideous monster with fire and smoke, and then the miserable beholders are bound to take it for a cave. While in the meantime two armies fly [70] in, represented with four swords and bucklers, and then what hard heart will not receive it for a pitched field?

Now of time they are much more liberal. For ordinary it is that two young princes fall in love; after many traverses she is got with child, delivered of a fair boy, he is lost, groweth a man, falleth in love, and is ready to get another child,—and all this in two hours' space; which [80] how absurd it is in sense even sense may imagine, and art hath taught, and all ancient examples justified, and at this day the ordinary players in Italy will not err in. Yet will some bring in an example of *Eunuchus* in Terence, that containeth matter of two days, yet far short of twenty years. True it is, and so was it to be played in two days, and so fitted to the time it set forth. And though [90] Plautus have in one place done amiss, let us hit with him, and not miss with him. But they will say, How then shall we set forth a story which containeth both many places and many times? And do they not know that a tragedy is tied to the laws of poesy, and not of history; not bound to follow the story, but having liberty either to feign a quite new matter, or to frame the history to [100] the most tragical conveniency? Again, many things may be told which cannot be showed,—if they know the difference be-

twixt reporting and representing. As for example I may speak, though I am here, of Peru, and in speech digress from that to the description of Calicut; but in action I cannot represent it without Pacolet's horse. And so was the manner the ancients took, by some *Nuntius* [110 to recount things done in former time or other place.

Lastly, if they will represent a history, they must not, as Horace saith, begin *ab ovo*, but they must come to the principal point of that one action which they will represent. By example this will be best expressed. I have a story of young Polydorus, delivered for safety's sake, with great riches, by his father [120 Priamus to Polymnestor, King of Thrace, in the Trojan war time. He, after some years, hearing the overthrow of Priamus, for to make the treasure his own, murdereth the child; the body of the child is taken up by Hecuba; she, the same day, findeth a sleight to be revenged most cruelly of the tyrant. Where now would one of our tragedy-writers begin, but with the delivery of the child? Then should [130 he sail over into Thrace, and so spend I know not how many years, and travel numbers of places. But where doth Euripides? Even with the finding of the body, leaving the rest to be told by the spirit of Polydorus. This needs no further to be enlarged; the dullest wit may conceive it.

But, besides these gross absurdities, how all their plays be neither right [140 tragedies nor right comedies, mingling kings and clowns, not because the matter so carrieth it, but thrust in clowns by head and shoulders to play a part in majestical matters, with neither decency nor discretion; so as neither the admiration and commiseration, nor the right sportfulness, is by their mongrel tragedy-comedy obtained. I know Apuleius did somewhat so, but that is a thing re- [150 counted with space of time, not represented in one moment: and I know the ancients have one or two examples of tragedy-comedies, as Plautus hath *Amphitruo*. But, if we mark them well, we shall find that they never, or very daintily, match hornpipes and funerals. So falleth

it out that, having indeed no right comedy in that comical part of our tragedy, we have nothing but scurrility, unworthy [160 of any chaste ears, or some extreme show of doltishness, indeed fit to lift up a loud laughter, and nothing else; where the whole tract of a comedy should be full of delight, as the tragedy should be still maintained in a well-raised admiration.

* * * * *

But I have lavished out too many words of this play-matter. I do it, because as they are excelling parts of poesy, so is there none so much used in Eng- [170 land, and none can be more pitifully abused; which, like an unmannerly daughter, showing a bad education, causeth her mother Poesy's honesty to be called in question.

Other sorts of poetry almost have we none, but that lyrical kind of songs and sonnets, which, the Lord if he gave us so good minds, how well it might be employed, and with how heavenly fruits, [180 both private and public, in singing the praises of the immortal beauty, the immortal goodness of that God who giveth us hands to write, and wits to conceive; of which we might well want words, but never matter; of which we could turn our eyes to nothing, but we should ever have new-budding occasions.

But truly, many of such writings as come under the banner of irresistible [190 love, if I were a mistress would never persuade me they were in love; so coldly they apply fiery speeches, as men that had rather read lovers' writings, and so caught up certain swelling phrases—which hang together like a man which once told me the wind was at northwest and by south, because he would be sure to name winds enough—than that in truth they feel those passions, which easily, as I [200 think, may be bewrayed by that same forcibleness, or *energia* (as the Greeks call it), of the writer. But let this be a sufficient, though short note, that we miss the right use of the material point of poesy.

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But what! methinks I deserve to be pounded for straying from poetry to ora-

tory. But both have such an affinity in this wordish consideration, that I [210 think this digression will make my meaning receive the fuller understanding: which is not to take upon me to teach poets how they should do, but only, finding myself sick among the rest, to show some one or two spots of the common infection grown among the most part of writers; that, acknowledging ourselves somewhat awry, we may bend to the right use both of matter and manner: whereto our lan- [220 guage giveth us great occasion, being, indeed, capable of any excellent exercising of it.

I know some will say it is a mingled language. And why not so much the better, taking the best of both the other? Another will say it wanteth grammar. Nay, truly, it hath that praise that it wanteth not grammar. For grammar it might have, but it needs it not; being [230 so easy in itself, and so void of those cumbersome differences of cases, genders, moods, and tenses, which, I think, was a piece of the Tower of Babylon's curse, that a man should be put to school to learn his mother-tongue. But for the uttering sweetly and properly the conceits of the mind, which is the end of speech, that hath it equally with any other tongue in the world; and is par- [240 ticularly happy in compositions of two or three words together, near the Greek, far beyond the Latin,—which is one of the greatest beauties can be in a language.

Now of versifying there are two sorts, the one ancient, the other modern. The ancient marked the quantity of each syllable, and according to that, framed his verse; the modern observing only number, with some regard of the ac- [250 cent, the chief life of it standeth in that like sounding of the words, which we call rime. Whether of these be the more excellent, would bear many speeches; the ancient no doubt more fit for music, both words and tune observing quantity; and more fit lively to express divers passions, by the low and lofty sound of the well-weighed syllable. The latter likewise with his rime striketh a certain music [260 to the ear; and, in fine, since it doth delight, though by another way, it obtaineth

the same purpose; there being in either, sweetness, and wanting in neither, majesty. Truly the English, before any other vulgar language I know, is fit for both sorts. For, for the ancient, the Italian is so full of vowels that it must ever be cumbered with elisions; the Dutch so, of the other side, with con- [270 sonants, that they cannot yield the sweet sliding fit for a verse. The French, in his whole language, hath not one word that hath his accent in the last syllable saving two, called antepenultima, and little more hath the Spanish; and therefore very gracelessly may they use dactyls. The English is subject to none of these defects.

Now for rime, though we do not [280 observe quantity, yet we observe the accent very precisely, which other languages either cannot do, or will not do so absolutely. That cæsura, or breathing-place in the midst of the verse, neither Italian nor Spanish have, the French and we never almost fail of. Lastly, even the very rime itself the Italian cannot put in the last syllable, by the French named the masculine rime, but still in the next [290 to the last, which the French call the female, or the next before that, which the Italians term *sdrucchiola*. The example of the former is *buono, suono*; of the *sdrucchiola* is *femina, semina*. The French, of the other side, hath both the male, as *bon, son*, and the female, as *plaise, taise*; but the *sdrucchiola* he hath not. Where the English hath all three, as *due, true; father, rather; motion, potion*; with [300 much more which might be said, but that I find already the triflingness of this discourse is much too much enlarged.

So that since the ever praiseworthy poesy is full of virtue-breeding delightfulness, and void of no gift that ought to be in the noble name of learning; since the blames laid against it are either false or feeble; since the cause why it is not esteemed in England is the fault of [310 poet-apes, not poets; since, lastly, our tongue is most fit to honor poesy, and to be honored by poesy; I conjure you all that have had the evil luck to read this ink-wasting toy of mine, even in the name of the Nine Muses, no more to scorn the

sacred mysteries of poesy; no more to laugh at the name of poets, as though they were next inheritors to fools; no more to jest at the reverend title of a rimer; but [320 to believe, . . . with me, that there are many mysteries contained in poetry which of purpose were written darkly, lest by profane wits it should be abused; to believe, with Landin, that they are so beloved of the gods that whatsoever they write proceeds of a divine fury; lastly, to believe themselves, when they tell you they will make you immortal by their verses. [330

Thus doing, your name shall flourish in the printers' shops. Thus doing, you shall be of kin to many a poetical preface. Thus doing, you shall be most fair, most rich, most wise, most all: you shall dwell upon superlatives. Thus doing, though you be *Libertino patre natus*, you shall suddenly grow *Herculeæ proles*,

Si quid mea carmina possunt.

Thus doing, your soul shall be placed [340 with Dante's Beatrice or Virgil's Anchises.

But if (fie of such a but!) you be born so near the dull-making cataract of Nilus, that you cannot hear the planet-like music of poetry; if you have so earth-creeping a mind, that it cannot lift itself up to look to the sky of poetry, or rather, by a certain rustical disdain, will become such a mome as to be a Momus of poetry; then, though I will not wish unto [350 you the ass's ears of Midas, nor to be driven by a poet's verses, as Bubonax was, to hang himself; nor to be rimed to death, as is said to be done in Ireland; yet thus much curse I must send you in the behalf of all poets: that while you live you live in love, and never get favor for lacking skill of a sonnet; and when you die, your memory die from the earth for want of an epitaph. [360

SIR WALTER RALEIGH (1552?-1618)

THE LAST FIGHT OF THE REVENGE

Because the rumors are diversely spread, as well in England as in the low countries and elsewhere, of this late encounter between her Majesty's ships and the Armada

of Spain; and that the Spaniards, according to their usual manner, fill the world with their vain-glorious vaunts, making great appearance of victories, when on the contrary themselves are most commonly and shamefully beaten and dis- [10 honored, thereby hoping to possess the ignorant multitude by anticipating and forerunning false reports: it is agreeable with all good reason (for manifestation of the truth, to overcome falsehood and untruth), that the beginning, continuance, and success of this late honorable encounter of Sir Richard Grenville, and other her Majesty's captains, with the Armada of Spain, should be truly set [20 down and published without partiality or false imaginations. And it is no marvel that the Spaniards should seek by false and slanderous pamphlets, advisos, and letters, to cover their own loss, and to derogate from others their due honors (especially in this fight, being performed far off), seeing they were not ashamed in the year 1588, when they purposed the invasion of this land, to publish in [30 sundry languages, in print, great victories (in words) which they pleaded to have obtained against this realm, and spread the same in a most false sort over all parts of France, Italy, and elsewhere. . . .

The Lord Thomas Howard, with six of her Majesty's ships, six victuallers of London, the bark *Raleigh*, and two or three pinnaces, riding at anchor near unto Flores, one of the westerly islands of [40 the Azores, the last of August in the afternoon, had intelligence by one Captain Middleton, of the approach of the Spanish Armada. Which Middleton, being in a very good sailer, had kept them company three days before, of good purpose both to discover their forces the more, as also to give advice to my Lord Thomas of their approach.

He had no sooner delivered the news [50 but the fleet was in sight. Many of our ships' companies were on shore in the island, some providing ballast for their ships, others filling of water and refreshing themselves from the land with such things as they could either for money or by force recover. By reason whereof our ships being all pestered, and rummag-

ing, every thing out of order, very light for want of ballast. And that which [60 was most to our disadvantage, the one half part of the men of every ship sick and utterly unserviceable. For in the *Revenge* there were ninety diseased; in the *Bonaventure*, not so many in health as could handle her mainsail. For had not twenty men been taken out of a bark of Sir George Cary's, his being commanded to be sunk, and those appointed to her, she had hardly ever recovered England. [70 The rest, for the most part, were in little better state.

The names of her Majesty's ships were these, as followeth: the *Defiance*, which was Admiral; the *Revenge*, Vice Admiral; the *Bonaventure*, commanded by Captain Crosse; the *Lion*, by George Fenner; the *Foresight*, by Thomas Vavisour; and the *Crane*, by Duffield. The *Foresight* and the *Crane* being but small ships only; [80 the other were of middle size. The rest, besides the bark *Raleigh*, commanded by Captain Thin, were victuallers, and of small force or none.

The Spanish fleet, having shrouded their approach by reason of the island, were now so soon at hand as our ships had scarce time to weigh their anchors, but some of them were driven to let slip their cables and set sail. Sir Richard Gren- [90 ville was the last weighed, to recover the men that were upon the island, which otherwise had been lost. The Lord Thomas with the rest very hardly recovered the wind, which Sir Richard Grenville not being able to do, was persuaded by the master and others to cut his mainsail and cast about, and to trust to the sailing of his ship: for the squadron of Seville were on his weather bow. But Sir Richard [100 utterly refused to turn from the enemy, alleging that he would rather choose to die, than to dishonor himself, his country, and her Majesty's ship; persuading his company that he would pass through the two squadrons in despite of them, and enforce those of Seville to give him way. Which he performed upon divers of the foremost, who, as the mariners term it, sprang their luff, and fell under the [110 lee of the *Revenge*. But the other course had been the better, and might right well

have been answered in so great an impossibility of prevailing. Notwithstanding out of the greatness of his mind he could not be persuaded.

In the meanwhile, as he attended those which were nearest him, the great *San Philip*, being in the wind of him, and coming towards him, becalmed his [120 sails in such sort as the ship could neither way nor feel the helm: so huge and high carged was the Spanish ship, being of a thousand and five hundred tons; who after laid the *Revenge* aboard. When he was thus bereft of his sails, the ships that were under his lee, luffing up, also laid him aboard; of which the next was the admiral of the Biscayans, a very mighty and puissant ship commanded by [130 Brittan Dona. The said *Philip* carried three tier of ordinance on a side, and eleven pieces in every tier. She shot eight forthright out of her chase, besides those of her stern ports.

After the *Revenge* was entangled with this *Philip*, four other boarded her, two on her larboard, and two on her starboard. The fight thus beginning at three of the clock in the afternoon continued very [140 terrible all that evening. But the great *San Philip*, having received the lower tier of the *Revenge*, discharged with cross-barshot, shifted herself with all diligence from her sides, utterly misliking her first entertainment. Some say that the ship foundered, but we cannot report it for truth, unless we were assured.

The Spanish ships were filled with companies of soldiers, in some two hun- [150 dred besides the mariners, in some five, in others eight hundred. In ours there were none at all besides the mariners, but the servants of the commanders and some few voluntary gentlemen only. After many interchanged volleys of great ordinance and small shot, the Spaniards deliberated to enter the *Revenge*, and made divers attempts, hoping to force her by the multitudes of their armed soldiers [160 and musketeers, but were still repulsed again and again, and at all times beaten back into their own ships or into the seas. In the beginning of the fight, the *George Noble* of London, having received some shot through her by the armados, fell

under the lee of the *Revenge*, and asked Sir Richard what he would command him, being but one of the victuallers and of small force. Sir Richard bade him [170 save himself, and leave him to his fortune.

After the fight had thus without intermission continued while the day lasted and some hours of the night, many of our men were slain and hurt, and one of the great galleons of the Armada and the Admiral of the Hulks both sunk, and in many other of the Spanish ships great slaughter was made. Some write that [180 Sir Richard was very dangerously hurt almost in the beginning of the fight, and lay speechless for a time ere he recovered. But two of the *Revenge's* own company brought home in a ship of Lime from the islands, examined by some of the Lords and others, affirmed that he was never so wounded as that he forsook the upper deck, till an hour before midnight; and then being shot into the [190 body with a musket, as he was a-dressing was again shot into the head, and withal his surgeon wounded to death. This agreeth also with an examination, taken by Sir Francis Godolphin, of four other mariners of the same ship being returned, which examination the said Sir Francis sent unto master William Killigrew, of her Majesty's Privy Chamber.

But to return to the fight, the Spanish ships which attempted to board the *Revenge*, as they were wounded and beaten off, so always others came in their places, she having never less than two mighty galleons by her sides and aboard her. So that ere the morning, from three of the clock the day before there had fifteen several armados assailed her; and all so ill approved their entertainment, as they were by the break of day far more willing to hearken to a composition than hastily to make any more assaults or entries. But as the day increased, so our men decreased; and as the light grew more and more, by so much more grew our discomforts. For none appeared in sight but enemies, saving one small ship called the *Pilgrim*, commanded by Jacob Whiddon, who hovered all night to see the success; but in the morning, bearing with the [220

Revenge, was hunted like a hare among many ravenous hounds, but escaped.

All the powder of the *Revenge* to the last barrel was now spent, all her pikes broken, forty of her best men slain, and the most part of the rest hurt. In the beginning of the fight she had but one hundred free from sickness, and fourscore and ten sick, laid in hold upon the ballast. A small troop to man such a ship, [230 and a weak garrison to resist so mighty an army! By those hundred all was sustained, the volleys, boardings, and enterings of fifteen ships of war, besides those which beat her at large. On the contrary the Spanish were always supplied with soldiers brought from every squadron, all manner of arms, and powder at will. Unto ours there remained no comfort at all, no hope, no supply either of [240 ships, men, or weapons; the masts all beaten overboard, all her tackle cut asunder, her upper work altogether razed; and, in effect, evened she was with the water, but the very foundation or bottom of a ship, nothing being left overhead either for flight or defence.

Sir Richard finding himself in this distress, and unable any longer to make resistance,—having endured in this fifteen [250 hours' fight the assault of fifteen several armados, all by turns aboard him, and by estimation eight hundred shot of great artillery, besides many assaults and entries, and that himself and the ship must needs be possessed by the enemy, who were now cast in a ring round about him, the *Revenge* not able to move one way or other but as she was moved by the waves and billow of the sea,—commanded the master gunner, whom he knew to be a most resolute man, to split and sink the ship, that thereby nothing might remain of glory or victory to the Spaniards, seeing in so many hours' fight, and with so great a navy, they were not able to take her, having had fifteen hours' time, fifteen thousand men, and fifty and three sail of men-of-war to perform it withal; and persuaded the company, or as [270 many as he could induce, to yield themselves unto God, and to the mercy of none else, but, as they had, like valiant resolute men, repulsed so many enemies, they

should not now shorten the honor of their nation by prolonging their own lives for a few hours or a few days.

The master gunner readily condescended, and divers others. But the Captain and the Master were of another [280 opinion and besought Sir Richard to have care of them, alleging that the Spaniard would be as ready to entertain a composition as they were willing to offer the same, and that there being divers sufficient and valiant men yet living, and whose wounds were not mortal, they might do their country and prince acceptable service hereafter. And (that where Sir Richard had alleged that [290 the Spaniards should never glory to have taken one ship of her Majesty's, seeing that they had so long and so notably defended themselves) they answered that the ship had six foot of water in hold, three shot under water which were so weakly stopped as, with the first working of the sea, she must needs sink, and was besides so crushed and bruised as she could never be removed out of the place. [300

And as the matter was thus in dispute, and Sir Richard refusing to hearken to any of those reasons, the Master of the *Revenge* (while the Captain won unto him the greater party) was convoyed aboard the *General Don Alfonso Bassan*. Who finding none over hasty to enter the *Revenge* again, doubting lest Sir Richard would have blown them up and himself, and perceiving by the report of the [310 Master of the *Revenge* his dangerous disposition, yielded that all their lives should be saved, the company sent for England, and the better sort to pay such reasonable ransom as their estate would bear, and in the mean season to be free from galley or imprisonment. To this he so much the rather condescended, as well, as I have said, for fear of further loss and mischief to themselves, as also for the desire he [320 had to recover Sir Richard Grenville; whom for his notable valor he seemed greatly to honor and admire.

When this answer was returned, and that safety of life was promised, the common sort being now at the end of their peril, the most drew back from Sir Richard and the gunner, being no hard matter to

dissuade men from death to life. The master gunner finding himself and Sir [330 Richard thus prevented and mastered by the greater number, would have slain himself with a sword had he not been by force withheld and locked into his cabin. Then the *General* sent many boats aboard the *Revenge*, and divers of our men, fearing Sir Richard's disposition, stole away aboard the *General* and other ships. Sir Richard, thus overmatched, was sent unto by Alfonso Bassan to remove [340 out of the *Revenge*, the ship being marvellous unsavory, filled with blood and bodies of dead and wounded men like a slaughter-house. Sir Richard answered that he might do with his body what he list, for he esteemed it not; and as he was carried out of the ship he swooned, and reviving again, desired the company to pray for him. The General used Sir Richard with all humanity, and left [350 nothing unattempted that tended to his recovery, highly commending his valor and worthiness, and greatly bewailed the danger wherein he was, being unto them a rare spectacle, and a resolution seldom approved, to see one ship turn toward so many enemies, to endure the charge and boarding of so many huge armados, and to resist and repel the assaults and entries of so many soldiers. All which, and [360 more, is confirmed by a Spanish captain of the same Armada, and a present actor in the fight, who, being severed from the rest in a storm, was by the *Lion*, of London, a small ship, taken, and is now prisoner in London.

The General Commander of the Armada was Don Alfonso Bassan, brother to the Marquis of Santa Cruce. The Admiral of the Biscayan squadron was Britan [370 Dona; of the squadron of Seville, Marquis of Arumburch. The Hulks and Fly-boats were commanded by Luis Cutino. There were slain and drowned in this fight well near two thousand of the enemies, and two especial Commanders, Don Luis de Sant John, and Don George de Prunaria de Malaga, as the Spanish Captain confesseth, besides divers others of special account, whereof as yet report is not made. [380

The Admiral of the Hulks and the *Ascension* of Seville were both sunk by

the side of the *Revenge*; one other recovered the road of Saint Michaels, and sunk also there; a fourth ran herself with the shore to save her men. Sir Richard died, as it is said, the second or third day aboard the *General*, and was by them greatly bewailed. What became of his body, whether it was buried in the sea [390 or on the land, we know not: the comfort that remaineth to his friends is, that he hath ended his life honorably in respect of the reputation won to his nation and country, and of the same to his posterity, and that, being dead, he hath not out-lived his own honor. . . .

A few days after the fight was ended, and the English prisoners dispersed into the Spanish and Indian ships, there [400 arose so great a storm from the west and northwest that all the fleet was dispersed, as well the Indian fleet which were then come unto them, as the rest of the Armada which attended their arrival. Of which, fourteen sail, together with the *Revenge* (and in her two hundred Spaniards), were cast away upon the isle of St. Michaels. So it pleased them to honor the burial of that renowned ship the *Revenge*, not [410 suffering her to perish alone, for the great honor she achieved in her lifetime. . . .

To conclude, it hath ever to this day pleased God to prosper and defend her Majesty, to break the purposes of malicious enemies, of forsworn traitors, and of unjust practises and invasions. She hath ever been honored of the worthiest kings, served by faithful subjects, and shall by the favor of God resist, repel, and [420 confound all whatsoever attempts against her sacred person or kingdom. In the meantime, let the Spaniard and traitor vaunt of their success; and we, her true and obedient vassals, guided by the shining light of her virtues, shall always love her, serve her, and obey her to the end of our lives.

FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

From THE ESSAYS

ESSAY I.—OF TRUTH

What is truth? said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer. Certainly there be that delight in giddiness, and

count it a bondage to fix a belief; affecting free-will in thinking, as well as in acting. And though the sects of philosophers of that kind be gone, yet there remain certain discoursing wits which are of the same veins, though there be not so much blood in them as was in [10 those of the ancients. But it is not only the difficulty and labor which men take in finding out of truth, nor again that when it is found it imposeth upon men's thoughts, that doth bring lies in favor; but a natural though corrupt love of the lie itself. One of the later school of the Grecians examineth the matter, and is at a stand to think what should be in it, that men should love lies, where [20 neither they make for pleasure, as with poets, nor for advantage, as with the merchant, but for the lie's sake. But I cannot tell: this same truth is a naked and open day-light, that doth not show the masks and mummeries and triumphs of the world, half so stately and daintily as candle-lights. Truth may perhaps come to the price of a pearl, that showeth best by day; but it will not rise to the price [30 of a diamond or carbuncle, that showeth best in varied lights. A mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure. Doth any man doubt, that if there were taken out of men's minds vain opinions, flattering hopes, false valuations, imaginations as one would, and the like, but it would leave the minds of a number of men poor shrunken things, full of melancholy and indisposition, and unpleasing to them- [40 selves? One of the Fathers, in great severity, called poesy *vinum demonum*, because it filleth the imagination, and yet it is but with the shadow of a lie. But it is not the lie that passeth through the mind, but the lie that sinketh in and setteth in it, that doth the hurt, such as we spake of before. But howsoever these things are thus in men's depraved judgments and affections, yet truth, which [50 only doth judge itself, teacheth that the inquiry of truth, which is the love-making or wooing of it, the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it, and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it, is the sovereign good of human nature. The first creature of God, in the works of the

days, was the light of the sense; the last was the light of reason; and his sabbath work, ever since, is the illumination of [60 his Spirit. First he breathed light upon the face of the matter or chaos; then he breathed light into the face of man; and still he breatheth and inspireth light into the face of his chosen. The poet that beautified the sect that was otherwise inferior to the rest, saith yet excellently well: *It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore, and to see ships tossed upon the sea; a pleasure to stand in the window of a [70 castle, and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below: but no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of Truth* (a hill not to be commanded, and where the air is always clear and serene), *and to see the errors, and wanderings, and mists, and tempests, in the vale below:* so always that this prospect be with pity, and not with swelling or pride. Certainly, it is heaven upon earth, to have a man's [80 mind move in charity, rest in providence, and turn upon the poles of truth.

To pass from theological and philosophical truth, to the truth of civil business: it will be acknowledged, even by those that practise it not, that clear and round dealing is the honor of man's nature; and that mixture of falsehood is like alloy in coin of gold and silver; which may make the metal work the better, but it em- [90 baseth it. For these winding and crooked courses are the goings of the serpent; which goeth basely upon the belly, and not upon the feet. There is no vice that doth so cover a man with shame as to be found false and perfidious. And therefore Montaigne saith prettily, when he inquired the reason, why the word of the lie should be such a disgrace and such an odious charge? Saith he, *If it be [100 well weighed, to say that a man lieth, is as much to say as that he is brave towards God and a coward towards men.* For a lie faces God, and shrinks from man. Surely the wickedness of falsehood and breach of faith cannot possibly be so highly expressed, as in that it shall be the last peal to call the judgments of God upon the generations of men; it being foretold, that when Christ cometh, *he shall not [110 find faith upon the earth.*

ESSAY V.—OF ADVERSITY

It was an high speech of Seneca (after the manner of the Stoics): *That the good things which belong to prosperity are to be wished; but the good things that belong to adversity are to be admired. Bona rerum secundarum optabilia, adversarum mirabilia.* Certainly if miracles be the command over nature, they appear most in adversity. It is yet a higher speech of his than the other (much too high for [10 a heathen): *It is true greatness to have in one the frailty of a man, and the security of a God. Vere magnum, habere fragilitatem hominis, securitatem Dei.* This would have done better in poesy, where transcendences are more allowed. And the poets indeed have been busy with it; for it is in effect the thing which is figured in that strange fiction of the ancient poets, which seemeth not to be without mys- [20 tery; nay, and to have some approach to the state of a Christian: that *Hercules, when he went to unbind Prometheus* (by whom human nature is represented), *sailed the length of the great ocean in an earthen pot or pitcher:* lively describing Christian resolution, that saileth in the frail bark of the flesh through the waves of the world. But to speak in a mean. The virtue of prosperity is temperance; [30 the virtue of adversity is fortitude, which in morals is the more heroical virtue. Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament; adversity is the blessing of the New, which carrieth the greater benediction, and the clearer revelation of God's favor. Yet even in the Old Testament, if you listen to David's harp, you shall hear as many hearse-like airs as carols; and the pencil of the Holy Ghost hath [40 labored more in describing the afflictions of Job than the felicities of Salomon. Prosperity is not without many fears and distastes; and adversity is not without comforts and hopes. We see in needle-works and embroideries, it is more pleasing to have a lively work upon a sad and solemn ground, than to have a dark and melancholy work upon a lightsome ground: judge therefore of the pleasure of the [50 heart by the pleasure of the eye. Certainly virtue is like precious odors, most

fragrant when they are incensed or crushed: for prosperity doth best discover vice; but adversity doth best discover virtue.

ESSAY VII.—OF MARRIAGE AND SINGLE LIFE

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief. Certainly the best works, and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from the unmarried or childless men, which both in affection and means have married and endowed the public. Yet it were great reason that those that have children should have [10] greatest care of future times; unto which they know they must transmit their dearest pledges. Some there are, who though they lead a single life, yet their thoughts do end with themselves, and account future times impertinences. Nay, there are some other that account wife and children but as bills of charges. Nay more, there are some foolish rich covetous men that take a pride in having no [20] children, because they may be thought so much the richer. For perhaps they have heard some talk, *Such an one is a great rich man*, and another except to it, *Yea, but he hath a great charge of children*; as if it were an abatement to his riches. But the most ordinary cause of a single life is liberty; especially in certain self-pleasing and humorous minds, which are so sensible of every restraint, as they will go [30] near to think their girdles and garters to be bonds and shackles. Unmarried men are best friends, best masters, best servants; but not always best subjects; for they are light to run away; and almost all fugitives are of that condition. A single life doth well with churchmen, for charity will hardly water the ground where it must first fill a pool. It is indifferent for judges and magistrates, for if they be [40] facile and corrupt, you shall have a servant five times worse than a wife. For soldiers, I find the generals commonly in their hortatives put men in mind of their wives and children; and I think the despoising of marriage amongst the Turks

maketh the vulgar soldier more base. Certainly wife and children are a kind of discipline of humanity; and single men, though they be many times more [50] charitable, because their means are less exhaust, yet, on the other side, they are more cruel and hard-hearted (good to make severe inquisitors), because their tenderness is not so oft called upon. Grave natures, led by custom, and therefore constant, are commonly loving husbands; as was said of Ulysses, *Vetulam suam prætulit immortalitati*. Chaste women are often proud and froward, as pre- [60] suming upon the merit of their chastity. It is one of the best bonds both of chastity and obedience in the wife, if she think her husband wise; which she will never do if she find him jealous. Wives are young men's mistresses; companions for middle age; and old men's nurses. So as a man may have a quarrel to marry when he will. But yet he was reputed one of the wise men, that made answer to [70] the question, when a man should marry?—*A young man not yet, an elder man not at all*. It is often seen that bad husbands have very good wives; whether it be that it raiseth the price of their husband's kindness when it comes; or that the wives take a pride in their patience. But this never fails, if the bad husbands were of their own choosing, against their friends' consent; for then they will be [80] sure to make good their own folly.

ESSAY XI.—OF GREAT PLACE

Men in great places are thrice servants: servants of the sovereign or state; servants of fame; and servants of business. So as they have no freedom, neither in their persons, nor in their actions, nor in their times. It is a strange desire, to seek power and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others and to lose power over a man's self. The rising unto place is laborious, and by pains men come to greater [10] pains; and it is sometimes base, and by indignities men come to dignities. The standing is slippery; and the regress is either a downfall, or at least an eclipse, which is a melancholy thing. *Cum non*

sis qui fueris, non esse cur velis vivere. Nay, retire men cannot when they would; neither will they when it were reason; but are impatient of privateness, even in age and sickness, which require the [20 shadow: like old townsmen, that will be still sitting at their street door, though thereby they offer age to scorn. Certainly, great persons had need to borrow other men's opinions, to think themselves happy; for if they judge by their own feeling, they cannot find it: but if they think with themselves what other men think of them, and that other men would fain be as they are, then they are [30 happy as it were by report, when perhaps they find the contrary within. For they are the first that find their own griefs, though they be the last that find their own faults. Certainly, men in great fortunes are strangers to themselves, and while they are in the puzzle of business they have no time to tend their health, either of body or mind. *Illi mors gravis incubat, qui notus nimis omnibus, ignotus* [40 *moritur sibi.* In place there is licence to do good and evil; whereof the latter is a curse: for in evil the best condition is not to will, the second not to can. But power to do good is the true and lawful end of aspiring. For good thoughts (though God accept them) yet towards men are little better than good dreams, except they be put in act; and that cannot be without power and place, as the vantage [50 and commanding ground. Merit and good works is the end of man's motion; and conscience of the same is the accomplishment of man's rest. For if a man can be partaker of God's theatre, he shall likewise be partaker of God's rest. *Et conversus Deus, ut aspiceret opera quæ fecerunt manus suæ, vidit quod omnia essent bona nimis;* and then the Sabbath. In the discharge of thy place, set before thee [60 the best examples; for imitation is a globe of precepts. And after a time set before thee thine own example; and examine thyself strictly, whether thou didst not best at first. Neglect not also the examples of those that have carried themselves ill in the same place; not to set off thyself by taxing their memory, but to direct thyself what to avoid. Reform,

therefore, without bravery or scandal of [70 former times and persons; but yet set it down to thyself as well to create good precedents as to follow them. Reduce things to the first institution, and observe wherein and how they have degenerate; but yet ask counsel of both times; of the ancient time, what is best; and of the latter time, what is fittest. Seek to make thy course regular, that men may know beforehand what they may expect; but [80 be not too positive and peremptory; and express thyself well when thou digressest from thy rule. Preserve the right of thy place, but stir not questions of jurisdiction: and rather assume thy right in silence and *de facto*, than voice it with claims and challenges. Preserve likewise the rights of inferior places; and think it more honor to direct in chief than to be busy in all. Embrace and invite [90 helps and advices touching the execution of thy place; and do not drive away such as bring thee information as meddlers, but accept of them in good part. The vices of authority are chiefly four: delays, corruption, roughness, and facility. For delays: give easy access; keep times appointed; go through with that which is in hand; and interlace not business but of necessity. For corruption: do not only [100 bind thine own hands or thy servants' hands from taking, but bind the hands of suitors also from offering. For integrity used doth the one; but integrity professed, and with a manifest detestation of bribery, doth the other. And avoid not only the fault, but the suspicion. Whosoever is found variable, and changeth manifestly without manifest cause, giveth suspicion of corruption. Therefore always when [110 thou changest thine opinion or course, profess it plainly and declare it, together with the reasons that move thee to change; and do not think to steal it. A servant or a favorite, if he be inward, and no other apparent cause of esteem, is commonly thought but a by-way to close corruption. For roughness, it is a needless cause of discontent: severity breedeth fear, but roughness breedeth hate. [120 Even reproofs from authority ought to be grave, and not taunting. As for facility, it is worse than bribery. For bribes come

but now and then; but if importunity or idle respects lead a man, he shall never be without. As Salomon saith: *To respect persons is not good; for such a man will transgress for a piece of bread.* It is most true that was anciently spoken, *A place showeth the man:* and it showeth some to [130 the better, and some to the worse. *Omnium consensu capax imperii, nisi imperasset,* saith Tacitus of Galba; but of Vespasian he saith, *Solus imperantium Vespasianus mutatus in melius:* though the one was meant of sufficiency, the other of manners and affection. It is an assured sign of a worthy and generous spirit, whom honor amends. For honor is, or should be, the place of virtue; and [140 as in nature things move violently to their place, and calmly in their place; so virtue in ambition is violent, in authority settled and calm. All rising to great place is by a winding stair; and if there be factions, it is good to side a man's self whilst he is in the rising, and to balance himself when he is placed. Use the memory of thy predecessor fairly and tenderly; for if thou dost not, it is a debt will sure [150 be paid when thou art gone. If thou have colleagues, respect them, and rather call them when they look not for it, than exclude them when they have reason to look to be called. Be not too sensible or too remembering of thy place in conversation and private answers to suitors; but let it rather be said, *When he sits in place he is another man.*

ESSAY XXIII.—OF WISDOM FOR A MAN'S SELF

An ant is a wise creature for itself, but it is a shrewd thing in an orchard or garden. And certainly men that are great lovers of themselves waste the public. Divide with reason between self-love and society; and be so true to thyself as thou be not false to others, specially to thy king and country. It is a poor centre of a man's actions, himself. It is right earth. For that only stands fast upon [10 his own centre; whereas all things that have affinity with the heavens move upon the centre of another, which they benefit. The referring of all to a man's self is more

tolerable in a sovereign prince; because themselves are not only themselves, but their good and evil is at the peril of the public fortune. But it is a desperate evil in a servant to a prince, or a citizen in a republic. For whatsoever affairs pass [20 such a man's hands, he crooketh them to his own ends; which must needs be often eccentric to the ends of his master or state. Therefore let princes, or states, choose such servants as have not this mark; except they mean their service should be made but the accessory. That which maketh the effect more pernicious is that all proportion is lost. It were disproportion enough for the servant's good [30 to be preferred before the master's; but yet it is a greater extreme, when a little good of the servant shall carry things against a great good of the master's. And yet that is the case of bad officers, treasurers, ambassadors, generals, and other false and corrupt servants; which set a bias upon their bowl, of their own petty ends and envies, to the overthrow of their master's great and important affairs. [40 And for the most part, the good such servants receive is after the model of their own fortune; but the hurt they sell for that good is after the model of their master's fortune. And certainly it is the nature of extreme self-lovers, as they will set an house on fire, and it were but to roast their eggs; and yet these men many times hold credit with their masters, because their study is but to please them [50 and profit themselves; and for either respect they will abandon the good of their affairs.

Wisdom for a man's self is, in many branches thereof, a depraved thing. It is the wisdom of rats, that will be sure to leave a house somewhat before it fall. It is the wisdom of the fox, that thrusts out the badger, who digged and made room for him. It is the wisdom of croco- [60 diles, that shed tears when they would devour. But that which is specially to be noted is, that those which (as Cicero says of Pompey) are *sui amantes sine rivali*, are many times unfortunate. And whereas they have all their time sacrificed to themselves, they become in the end themselves sacrifices to the inconstancy

of fortune, whose wings they thought by their self-wisdom to have pinioned. [70

ESSAY XLII.—OF YOUTH AND AGE

A man that is young in years may be old in hours, if he have lost no time. But that happeneth rarely. Generally, youth is like the first cogitations, not so wise as the second. For there is a youth in thoughts as well as in ages. And yet the invention of young men is more lively than that of the old; and imaginations stream into their minds better, and, as it were, more divinely. Natures that [10 have much heat, and great and violent desires and perturbations, are not ripe for action till they have passed the meridian of their years: as it was with Julius Cæsar, and Septimius Severus. Of the latter of whom it is said, *Juventutem egit erroribus, imo furoribus, plenam*. And yet he was the ablest emperor, almost, of all the list. But reposed natures may do well in youth. As it is seen in Au- [20 gustus Cæsar, Cosmus, Duke of Florence, Gaston de Foix, and others. On the other side, heat and vivacity in age is an excellent composition for business. Young men are fitter to invent than to judge; fitter for execution than for counsel; and fitter for new projects than for settled business. For the experience of age, in things that fall within the compass of it, directeth them; but in new things, [30 abuseth them. The errors of young men are the ruin of business; but the errors of aged men amount but to this, that more might have been done, or sooner. Young men, in the conduct and manage of actions, embrace more than they can hold; stir more than they can quiet; fly to the end, without consideration of the means and degrees; pursue some few principles which they have chanced upon ab- [40 surdly; care not to innovate, which draws unknown inconveniences; use extreme remedies at first; and, that which doubleth all errors, will not acknowledge or retract them; like an unready horse, that will neither stop nor turn. Men of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, repent too soon, and seldom drive business home to the full period,

but content themselves with a medioc- [50 rity of success. Certainly, it is good to compound employments of both; for that will be good for the present, because the virtues of either age may correct the defects of both; and good for succession, that young men may be learners, while men in age are actors; and, lastly, good for extern accidents, because authority followeth old men, and favor and popularity youth. But for the moral part, [60 perhaps youth will have the pre-eminence, as age hath for the politic. A certain rabbin, upon the text, *Your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams*, inferreth that young men are admitted nearer to God than old, because vision is a clearer revelation than a dream. And certainly, the more a man drinketh of the world, the more it intoxicateth; and age doth profit rather [70 in the powers of understanding, than in the virtues of the will and affections. There be some have an over-early ripeness in their years, which fadeth betimes. These are, first, such as have brittle wits, the edge whereof is soon turned; such as was Hermogenes the rhetorician, whose books are exceeding subtile, who afterwards waxed stupid. A second sort is of those that have some natural disposi- [80 tions which have better grace in youth than in age; such as is a fluent and luxuriant speech, which becomes youth well, but not age: so Tully saith of Hortensius, *Idem manebat, neque idem docebat*. The third is of such as take too high a strain at the first, and are magnanimous more than tract of years can uphold. As was Scipio Africanus, of whom Livy saith in effect, *Ultima primis cedebant*. [90

ESSAY XLVI.—OF GARDENS

God Almighty first planted a garden. And indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man; without which, buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks: and a man shall ever see that when ages grow to civility and elegancy, men come to build stately sooner than to garden finely; as if gardening were the greater perfection. I do hold it, in the [10

royal ordering of gardens, there ought to be gardens for all the months in the year; in which, severally, things of beauty may be then in season. For December and January and the latter part of November, you must take such things as are green all winter: holly, ivy, bays, juniper, cypress-trees, yew, pine-apple-trees, fir-trees, rosemary, lavender, periwinkle,—the white, the purple, and the blue,— [20] germander, flags, orange-trees, lemon-trees, and myrtles, if they be stoved, and sweet marjoram, warm set. There followeth, for the latter part of January and February, the mezerion-tree, which then blossoms, crocus vernus, both the yellow and the gray, primroses, anemones, the early tulippa, hyacinthus orientalis, chamaïris, fritillaria. For March, there come violets, specially the single blue, which [30] are the earliest, the yellow daffodil, the daisy, the almond-tree in blossom, the peach-tree in blossom, the cornelian-tree in blossom, sweet briar. In April follow the double white violet, the wall-flower, the stock-gillyflower, the cowslip, flower-delices and lilies of all natures, rosemary flowers, the tulippa, the double peony, the pale daffodil, the French honeysuckle, the cherry-tree in blossom, the dam- [40] masin and plum-trees in blossom, the white-thorn in leaf, the lilac-tree. In May and June come pinks of all sorts, specially the blush pink, roses of all kinds, except the musk, which comes later, honeysuckles, strawberries, bugloss, columbine, the French marygold, flos Africanus, cherry-tree in fruit, ribes, figs in fruit, rasps, vine flowers, lavender in flowers, the sweet satyrian, with the [50] white flower, herba muscaria, liliun convallium, the apple-tree in blossom. In July come gillyflowers of all varieties, musk-roses, the lime-tree in blossom, early pears and plums in fruit, ginnittings, quadlins. In August come plums of all sorts in fruit, pears, apricocks, barberries, filberts, musk-melons, monks-hoods of all colors. In September come grapes, apples, poppies of all colors, peaches, [60] melocotones, nectarines, cornelians, wardenes, quinces. In October and the beginning of November come services, medlars, bullises, roses cut or removed to

come late, hollyhocks, and such like. These particulars are for the climate of London; but my meaning is perceived, that you may have *ver perpetuum*, as the place affords.

And because the breath of flowers is [70] far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes, like the warbling of music) than in the hand, therefore nothing is more fit for that delight, than to know what be the flowers and plants that do best perfume the air. Roses, damask and red, are fast flowers of their smells, so that you may walk by a whole row of them, and find nothing of their sweetness; yea, though it be in a morning's dew. Bays like- [80] wise yield no smell as they grow. Rosemary little; nor sweet marjoram. That which above all others yields the sweetest smell in the air, is the violet; specially the white double violet, which comes twice a year, about the middle of April, and about Bartholomewtide. Next to that is the musk-rose. Then the strawberry-leaves dying, which [yield] a most excellent cordial smell. Then the flower [90] of the vines; it is a little dust, like the dust of a bent, which grows upon the cluster in the first coming forth. Then sweet briar. Then wall-flowers, which are very delightful to be set under a parlor or lower chamber window. Then pinks and gillyflowers, specially the matted pink and clove gillyflower. Then the flowers of the lime-tree. Then the honeysuckles, so they be somewhat afar [100] off. Of bean flowers I speak not, because they are field flowers. But those which perfume the air most delightfully, not passed by as the rest, but being trodden upon and crushed, are three: that is, burnet, wild thyme, and water-mints. Therefore you are to set whole alleys of them, to have the pleasure when you walk or tread.

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For fountains, they are a great [110] beauty and refreshment; but pools mar all, and make the garden unwholesome and full of flies and frogs. Fountains I intend to be of two natures: the one, that sprinkleth or spouteth water; the other, a fair receipt of water, of some

thirty or forty foot square, but without fish, or slime, or mud. For the first, the ornaments of images gilt, or of marble, which are in use, do well: but the main [120 matter is, so to convey the water, as it never stay, either in the bowls or in the cistern; that the water be never by rest discolored, green or red or the like, or gather any mossiness or putrefaction. Besides that, it is to be cleansed every day by the hand. Also some steps up to it, and some fine pavement about it, doth well. As for the other kind of fountain, which we may call a bathing pool, it [130 may admit much curiosity and beauty, wherewith we will not trouble ourselves: as, that the bottom be finely paved, and with images; the sides likewise; and withal embellished with colored glass, and such things of lustre; encompassed also with fine rails of low statues. But the main point is the same which we mentioned in the former kind of fountain; which is, that the water be in perpetual motion, [140 fed by a water higher than the pool, and delivered into it by fair spouts, and then discharged away under ground, by some equality of bores, that it stay little. And for fine devices, of arching water without spilling, and making it rise in several forms (of feathers, drinking glasses, canopies, and the like), they be pretty things to look on, but nothing to health and sweetness. [150

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ESSAY L.—OF STUDIES

Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament, is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgment and disposition of business. For expert men can execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general counsels, and the plots and marshalling of affairs, come best from those that are learned. To [10 spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules is the humor of a scholar. They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience; for natural abilities are like

natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience. [20 Crafty men condemn studies; simple men admire them; and wise men use them: for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them and above them, won by observation. Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be [30 chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but that would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner sort of books; else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy things. [40 Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not. Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtil; natural philosophy deep; moral, grave; [50 logic and rhetoric able to contend. *Abeunt studia in mores*. Nay, there is no stond or impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies: like as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises. Bowling is good for the stone and reins; shooting for the lungs and breast; gentle walking for the stomach; riding for the head; and the like. So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the [60 mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin again: if his wit be not apt to distinguish or find differences, let him study the schoolmen; for they are *cymini sectores*: if he be not apt to beat over matters, and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him study the lawyers' cases: so every defect of the mind may have a special receipt. [70

PURITANS AND CAVALIERS

CAROLINE SONG WRITERS

GEORGE WITHER (1588-1667)

SHALL I, WASTING IN DESPAIR

Shall I, wasting in despair,
 Die, because a woman's fair?
 Or make pale my cheeks with care,
 'Cause another's rosy are?
 Be she fairer than the day,
 Or the flow'ry meads in May,
 If she be not so to me,
 What care I how fair she be?

Should my heart be grieved or pined,
 'Cause I see a woman kind?
 Or a well disposed nature
 Joinèd with a lovely feature?
 Be she meeker, kinder than
 Turtle dove, or pelican,
 If she be not so to me,
 What care I how kind she be?

Shall a woman's virtues move
 Me to perish for her love?
 Or her well deserving known,
 Make me quite forget mine own?
 Be she with that goodness blest
 Which may gain her name of best,
 If she be not such to me,
 What care I how good she be?

'Cause her fortune seems too high,
 Shall I play the fool and die?
 Those that bear a noble mind,
 Where they want of riches find,
 Think, "What, with them, they would
 do
 That, without them, dare to woo!"
 And unless that mind I see,
 What care I though great she be?

Great, or good, or kind, or fair,
 I will ne'er the more despair!

If she love me (this believe!) 35
 I will die, ere she shall grieve;
 If she slight me when I woo,
 I can scorn, and let her go;
 For if she be not for me,
 What care I for whom she be? 40

THOMAS CAREW (1598?-1639?)

ASK ME NO MORE WHERE JOVE BESTOWS

Ask me no more where Jove bestows,
 When June is past, the fading rose;
 For in your beauty's orient deep
 These flowers, as in their causes, sleep.

Ask me no more whither do stray 5
 The golden atoms of the day,
 For, in pure love, heaven did prepare
 Those powders to enrich your hair.

Ask me no more whither doth haste 15
 The nightingale when May is past;
 For in your sweet dividing throat 10
 She winters, and keeps warm her note.

Ask me no more where those stars light 20
 That downwards fall in dead of night,
 For in your eyes they sit, and there 15
 Fixèd become as in their sphere.

Ask me no more if east or west
 The phoenix builds her spicy nest;
 For unto you at last she flies,
 And in your fragrant bosom dies. 20

HE THAT LOVES A ROSY CHEEK

He that loves a rosy cheek
 Or a coral lip admires,
 Or from star-like eyes doth seek
 Fuel to maintain his fires;
 As old Time makes these decay, 5
 So his flames must waste away.

But a smooth and steadfast mind,
 Gentle thoughts, and calm desires,
 Hearts with equal love combined,
 Kindle never-dying fires; 10
 Where these are not, I despise
 Lovely cheeks or lips or eyes.

No tears, Celia, now shall win
 My resolved heart to return;
 I have searched thy soul within 15
 And find naught but pride and scorn;
 I have learned thy arts, and now
 Can disdain as much as thou.

SIR JOHN SUCKLING (1609-1642)

CONSTANCY

Out upon it, I have loved
 Three whole days together!
 And am like to love three more,
 If it prove fair weather.

Time shall moult away his wings 5
 Ere he shall discover
 In the whole wide world again
 Such a constant lover.

But the spite on't is, no praise
 Is due at all to me: 10
 Love with me had made no stays,
 Had it any been but she.

Had it any been but she,
 And that very face,
 There had been at least ere this 15
 A dozen dozen in her place.

WHY SO PALE AND WAN, FOND LOVER?

Why so pale and wan, fond lover?
 Prithee, why so pale?
 Will, when looking well can't move her,
 Looking ill prevail?
 Prithee, why so pale? 5

Why so dull and mute, young sinner?
 Prithee, why so mute?
 Will, when speaking well can't win her,
 Saying nothing do 't?
 Prithee, why so mute? 10

Quit, quit for shame! This will not move,
 This cannot take her.
 If of herself she will not love,
 Nothing can make her:
 The devil take her! 15

RICHARD LOVELACE (1618-1658)

TO LUCASTA, ON GOING TO THE WARS

Tell me not, sweet, I am unkind,
 That from the nunnery
 Of thy chaste breast and quiet mind
 To war and arms I fly.

True, a new mistress now I chase, 5
 The first foe in the field;
 And with a stronger faith embrace
 A sword, a horse, a shield.

Yet this inconstancy is such
 As you too shall adore; 10
 I could not love thee, dear, so much,
 Loved I not honor more.

TO ALTHEA, FROM PRISON

When Love with unconfinèd wings
 Hovers within my gates,
 And my divine Althea brings
 To whisper at the grates;
 When I lie tangled in her hair 5
 And fettered to her eye,
 The gods that wanton in the air
 Know no such liberty.

When flowing cups run swiftly round
 With no allaying Thames, 10
 Our careless heads with roses bound,
 Our hearts with loyal flames;
 When thirsty grief in wine we steep,
 When healths and draughts go free,
 Fishes that tipple in the deep 15
 Know no such liberty.

When, like committed¹ linnets, I
 With shriller throat shall sing
 The sweetness, mercy, majesty,
 And glories of my king; 20

¹ caged.

When I shall voice aloud how good
 He is, how great should be,
 Enlargèd winds, that curl the flood,
 Know no such liberty.

Stone walls do not a prison make, 25
 Nor iron bars a cage;
 Minds innocent and quiet take
 That for an hermitage;
 If I have freedom in my love,
 And in my soul am free, 30
 Angels alone, that soar above,
 Enjoy such liberty.

JAMES SHIRLEY (1596-1666)

A DIRGE

The glories of our blood and state
 Are shadows, not substantial things;
 There is no armor against fate;
 Death lays his icy hand on kings:
 Sceptre and crown 5
 Must tumble down,
 And in the dust be equal made
 With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

Some men with swords may reap the field,
 And plant fresh laurels where they kill; 10
 But their strong nerves at last must yield;
 They tame but one another still:
 Early or late
 They stoop to fate,
 And must give up their murmuring breath
 When they, pale captives, creep to death. 16

The garlands wither on your brow;
 Then boast no more your mighty deeds;
 Upon Death's purple altar now
 See where the victor-victim bleeds: 20
 Your heads must come
 To the cold tomb;
 Only the actions of the just
 Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust.

ROBERT HERRICK (1591-1674)

THE ARGUMENT OF HIS BOOK

I sing of brooks, of blossoms, birds and
 bowers,
 Of April, May, of June and July-flowers;

I sing of May-poles, hock-carts, wassails,
 wakes,
 Of bridegrooms, brides, and of their bridal
 cakes;

I write of youth, of love, and have access 5
 By these to sing of cleanly wantonness;
 I sing of dews, of rains, and, piece by piece,
 Of balm, of oil, of spice and ambergris;
 I sing of times trans-shifting, and I write
 How roses first came red and lilies white;
 I write of groves, of twilights, and I sing 11
 The court of Mab, and of the Fairy King;
 I write of hell; I sing (and ever shall)
 Of heaven, and hope to have it after all.

**UPON THE LOSS OF HIS
 MISTRESSES**

I have lost, and lately, these
 Many dainty mistresses:
 Stately Julia, prime of all;
 Sapho next, a principal;
 Smooth Anthea, for a skin 5
 White and heaven-like crystalline;
 Sweet Electra, and the choice
 Myrha, for the lute and voice.
 Next, Corinna, for her wit,
 And the graceful use of it; 10
 With Perilla: all are gone,
 Only Herrick's left alone,
 For to number sorrow by
 Their departures hence, and die.

CORINNA'S GOING A-MAYING

Get up, get up for shame, the blooming
 morn
 Upon her wings presents the god unshorn.
 See how Aurora throws her fair
 Fresh-quilted colors through the air:
 Get up, sweet slug-a-bed, and see 5
 The dew bespangling herb and tree.
 Each flower has wept and bowed toward
 the east
 Above an hour since: yet you not dressed;
 Nay! not so much as out of bed?
 When all the birds have matins said 10
 And sung their thankful hymns, 'tis sin,
 Nay, profanation, to keep in,
 Whenas a thousand virgins on this day
 Spring, sooner than the lark, to fetch in
 May.

Rise and put on your foliage, and be seen 15
To come forth, like the spring-time, fresh
and green,

And sweet as Flora. Take no care

For jewels for your gown or hair:

Fear not; the leaves will strew

Gems in abundance upon you: 20

Besides, the childhood of the day has kept,
Against you come, some orient pearls un-
wept;

Come and receive them while the light

Hangs on the dew-locks of the night:

And Titan¹ on the eastern hill 25

Retires himself, or else stands still

Till you come forth. Wash, dress, be brief
in praying:

Few beads² are best when once we go a-
Maying.

Come, my Corinna, come; and, coming,
mark

How each field turns a street, each street
a park 30

Made green and trimmed with trees;
see how

Devotion gives each house a bough

Or branch: each porch, each door ere
this

An ark, a tabernacle is,

Made up of white-thorn, neatly inter-
wove; 35

As if here were those cooler shades of love.

Can such delights be in the street

And open fields and we not see't?

Come, we'll abroad; and let's obey

The proclamation made for May: 40

And sin no more, as we have done, by
staying;

But, my Corinna, come, let's go a-Maying.

There's not a budding boy or girl this day
But is got up, and gone to bring in May.

A deal of youth, ere this, is come 45

Back, and with white-thorn laden home.

Some have despatched their cakes and
cream

Before that we have left to dream:

And some have wept, and wooed, and
plighted troth,

And chose their priest, ere we can cast off
sloth: 50

Many a green-gown has been given;

Many a kiss, both odd and even:

¹ the sun.

² prayers.

Many a glance too has been sent
From out the eye, love's firmament;
Many a jest told of the keys betraying 55
This night, and locks picked, yet we're
not a-Maying.

Come, let us go while we are in our prime;
And take the harmless folly of the time.

We shall grow old apace, and die

Before we know our liberty. 60

Our life is short, and our days run

As fast away as does the sun;

And, as a vapor or a drop of rain,

Once lost, can ne'er be found again,

So when or you or I are made 65

A fable, song, or fleeting shade,

All love, all liking, all delight

Lies drowned with us in endless night.

Then while time serves, and we are but
decaying,

Come, my Corinna, come, let's go a-
Maying. 70

TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,

Old Time is still a-flying;

And this same flower that smiles to-day,

To-morrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun, 5

The higher he's a-getting,

The sooner will his race be run,

And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,

When youth and blood are warmer; 10

But being spent, the worse and worst

Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,

And while ye may, go marry;

For, having lost but once your prime, 15

You may forever tarry.

HOW ROSES CAME RED

Roses at first were white,

Till they could not agree,

Whether my Sapho's breast

Or they more white should be.

But being vanquished quite, 5
 A blush their cheeks bespread;
 Since which, believe the rest,
 The roses first came red.

TO DAFFODILS

Fair daffodils, we weep to see
 You haste away so soon;
 As yet the early rising sun
 Has not attained his noon.
 Stay, stay, 5
 Until the hasting day
 Has run
 But to the even-song;
 And, having prayed together, we
 Will go with you along. 10

We have short time to stay as you;
 We have as short a spring;
 As quick a growth to meet decay,
 As you, or anything.
 We die 15
 As your hours do, and dry
 Away,
 Like to the summer's rain;
 Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
 Ne'er to be found again. 20

NIGHT-PIECE, TO JULIA

Her eyes the glow-worm lend thee,
 The shooting stars attend thee;
 And the elves also,
 Whose little eyes glow
 Like the sparks of fire, befriend thee. 5

No Will-o'-th'-Wisp mis-light thee,
 Nor snake nor slow-worm bite thee;
 But on, on thy way,
 Not making a stay,
 Since ghost there's none to affright thee.

Let not the dark thee cumber; 11
 What though the moon does slumber?
 The stars of the night
 Will lend thee their light,
 Like tapers clear without number. 15

Then, Julia, let me woo thee,
 Thus, thus, to come unto me;
 And when I shall meet
 Thy silvery feet
 My soul I'll pour into thee. 20

UPON JULIA'S CLOTHES

Whenas in silks my Julia goes,
 Then, then, methinks, how sweetly flows
 The liquefaction of her clothes.

Next, when I cast mine eyes, and see
 That brave vibration, each way free, 5
 Oh, how that glittering taketh me!

AN ODE FOR BEN JONSON

Ah, Ben!
 Say how or when
 Shall we, thy guests,
 Meet at those lyric feasts,
 Made at the Sun, 5
 The Dog, the Triple Tun;
 Where we such clusters had,
 As made us nobly wild, not mad?
 And yet each verse of thine
 Out-did the meat out-did the frolic wine.

My Ben! 11
 Or come again,
 Or send to us
 Thy wit's great overplus;
 But teach us yet 15
 Wisely to husband it,
 Lest we that talent spend;
 And having once brought to an end
 That precious stock, the store
 Of such a wit the world should have no
 more. 20

GRACE FOR A CHILD

Here, a little child, I stand,
 Heaving up my either hand:
 Cold as paddocks though they be,
 Here I lift them up to thee,
 For a benison to fall 5
 On our meat, and on us all. Amen.

TO KEEP A TRUE LENT

Is this a fast, to keep
 The larder lean,
 And clean
 From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish 5
 Of flesh, yet still
 To fill
 The platter high with fish?
 Is it to fast an hour,
 Or ragg'd to go, 10
 Or show
 A downcast look, and sour?
 No; 'tis a fast, to dole
 Thy sheaf of wheat
 And meat 15
 Unto the hungry soul.
 It is to fast from strife,
 From old debate,
 And hate;
 To circumcise thy life. 20
 To show a heart grief-rent;
 To starve thy sin,
 Not bin;
 And that's to keep thy Lent.

GEORGE HERBERT (1593-1633)

VIRTUE

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
 The bridal of the earth and sky,
 The dew shall weep thy fall to-night;
 For thou must die.
 Sweet rose, whose hue, angry and brave, 5
 Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
 Thy root is ever in its grave,
 And thou must die.
 Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,
 A box where sweets compacted lie, 10
 My music shows ye have your closes,
 And all must die.
 Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
 Like seasoned timber, never gives;
 But though the whole world turn to coal, 15
 Then chiefly lives.

THE COLLAR

I struck the board, and cried, "No more;
 I will abroad!
 What! shall I ever sigh and pine?

My lines and life are free; free as the road,
 Loose as the wind, as large as store.¹ 5
 Shall I be still in suit?
 Have I no harvest but a thorn
 To let me blood, and not restore
 What I have lost with cordial² fruit?
 Sure there was wine 10
 Before my sighs did dry it; there was
 corn
 Before my tears did drown it;
 Is the year only lost to me?
 Have I no bays to crown it,
 No flowers, no garlands gay? all blasted, 15
 All wasted?
 Not so, my heart; but there is fruit,
 And thou hast hands.
 Recover all thy sigh-blown age
 On double pleasures; leave thy cold dis-
 pute 20
 Of what is fit and not; forsake thy cage,
 Thy rope of sands
 Which petty thoughts have made, and
 made to thee
 Good cable, to enforce and draw,
 And be thy law, 25
 While thou didst wink³ and wouldst not
 see.
 Away! take heed!
 I will abroad.
 Call in thy death's-head there, tie up thy
 fears:
 He that forbears 30
 To suit and serve his need
 Deserves his load."
 But as I raved, and grew more fierce and
 wild
 At every word,
 Methought I heard one calling, "Child!"
 And I replied, "My Lord!" 36

THE QUIP

The merry World did on a day
 With his train-bands and mates agree
 To meet together where I lay,
 And all in sport to jeer at me.
 First Beauty crept into a rose, 5
 Which when I plucked not, "Sir," said
 she,
 "Tell me, I pray, whose hands are those?"
 But Thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

¹ plenty.² revivifying.³ shut the eyes.

Then Money came, and chinking still,
 "What tune is this, poor man?" said he;
 "I heard in music you had skill;" 11
 But Thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

Then came brave Glory puffing by
 In silks that whistled, who but he!
 He scarce allowed me half an eye; 15
 But Thou shalt answer, Lord, for me.

Then came quick Wit and Conversation,
 And he would needs a comfort be,
 And, to be short, make an oration:
 But Thou shalt answer, Lord, for me. 20

Yet when the hour of Thy design
 To answer these fine things shall come,
 Speak not at large; say, I am Thine,
 And then they have their answer home.

THE PULLEY

When God at first made man,
 Having a glass of blessings standing by;
 "Let us," said He, "pour on him all we
 can:
 Let the world's riches, which dispersèd
 lie,
 Contract into a span." 5

So Strength first made a way;
 Then Beauty flowed; then Wisdom, Honor,
 Pleasure.
 When almost all was out, God made a
 stay,
 Perceiving that alone, of all His treasure,
 Rest in the bottom lay. 10

"For if I should," said He,
 "Bestow this jewel also on My creature,
 He would adore My gifts instead of
 Me,
 And rest in Nature, not the God of Na-
 ture;
 So both should losers be. 15

"Yet let him keep the rest,
 But keep them with repining restless-
 ness;
 Let him be rich and weary, that at
 least,
 If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
 May toss him to My breast." 20

RICHARD CRASHAW (1613?-1649)

IN THE HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD

A HYMN SUNG AS BY THE SHEPHERDS

CHORUS

Come, we shepherds, whose blest sight
 Hath met Love's noon in Nature's night;
 Come, lift we up our loftier song
 And wake the sun that lies too long.

To all our world of well-stolen joy 5
 He slept, and dreamt of no such thing,
 While we found out heaven's fairer eye
 And kissed the cradle of our King.
 Tell him he rises now too late
 To show us aught worth looking at. 10

Tell him we now can show him more
 Than he e'er showed to mortal sight,
 Than he himself e'er saw before,
 Which to be seen needs not his light.
 Tell him, Tityrus, where th' hast been
 Tell him, Thyrsis, what th' hast seen. 16

TITYRUS. Gloomy night embraced the
 place
 Where the noble Infant lay.
 The Babe looked up and showed His
 face;
 In spite of darkness, it was day. 20
 It was Thy day, Sweet! and did rise
 Not from the east, but from Thine eyes.

CHORUS. It was Thy day, Sweet, etc.

THYRSIS. Winter chid aloud, and sent
 The angry North to wage his wars; 25
 The North forgot his fierce intent,
 And left perfumes instead of scars.

By those sweet eyes' persuasive powers,
 Where he meant frost he scattered flowers.

CHO. By those sweet eyes, etc. 30

BOTH. We saw Thee in Thy balmy nest,
 Young dawn of our eternal Day;
 We saw Thine eyes break from their east
 And chase the trembling shades away.
 We saw Thee, and we blest the sight, 35
 We saw Thee by Thine own sweet light.

TIT. Poor world, said I, what wilt thou
do
To entertain this starry Stranger?
Is this the best thou canst bestow—
A cold, and not too cleanly, manger? 40
Contend, the powers of heaven and
earth,
To fit a bed for this huge birth!

CHO. Contend, the powers, etc.

THYR. Proud world, said I, cease your
contest,
And let the mighty Babe alone; 45
The phoenix builds the phoenix' nest,
Love's architecture is his own;
The Babe whose birth embraves this
morn,
Made His own bed e'er He was born.

CHO. The Babe whose, etc. 50

TIT. I saw the curled drops, soft and slow,
Come hovering o'er the place's head,
Offering their whitest sheets of snow
To furnish the fair Infant's bed.
Forbear, said I; be not too bold; 55
Your fleece is white, but 'tis too cold.

CHO. Forbear, said I, etc.

THYR. I saw the obsequious seraphim
Their rosy fleece of fire bestow,
For well they now can spare their wing
Since Heaven itself lies here below. 61
Well done, said I; but are you sure
Your down so warm, will pass for pure?

CHO. Well done, said I, etc.

TIT. No, no, your King's not yet to seek 65
Where to repose His royal head;
See, see how soon His new-bloomed
cheek
'Twixt mother's breasts is gone to bed!
Sweet choice, said we; no way but so
Not to lie cold, yet sleep in snow. 70

CHO. Sweet choice, said we, etc.

BOTH. We saw Thee in Thy balmy nest,
Bright dawn of our eternal Day;
We saw Thine eyes break from their
east

And chase the trembling shades away. 75
We saw Thee, and we blest the sight,
We saw Thee by Thine own sweet Light.

CHO. We saw Thee, etc.

FULL CHORUS

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span! 80
Summer in winter! day in night!
Heaven in earth! and God in man!
Great little one, whose all-embracing
birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to
earth!

Welcome, though nor to gold nor silk, 85
To more than Cæsar's birthright is;
Two sister-seas of virgin-milk
With many a rarely-tempered kiss,
That breathes at once both maid and
mother,
Warms in the one, cools in the other. 90

She sings Thy tears asleep, and dips
Her kisses in Thy weeping eye;
She spreads the red leaves of Thy lips
That in their buds yet blushing lie;
She 'gainst those mother-diamonds tries
The points of her young eagle's eyes. 96

Welcome, though not to those gay flies
Gilded i' th' beams of earthly kings,
Slippery souls in smiling eyes—
But to poor shepherds, homespun things,
Whose wealth's their flock, whose wit,
to be 101
Well read in their simplicity.

Yet, when young April's husband
showers
Shall bless the fruitful Maia's bed,
We'll bring the first-born of her flowers
To kiss Thy feet and crown Thy head. 106
To Thee, dread Lamb! whose love
must keep
The shepherds, more than they the sheep.

To Thee, meek Majesty, soft King
Of simple graces and sweet loves, 110
Each of us his lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves;
Till burnt at last in fire of Thy fair eyes,
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice!

HENRY VAUGHAN (1622-1695)

THE RETREAT

Happy those early days, when I
 Shined in my angel-infancy;
 Before I understood this place
 Appointed for my second race,
 Or taught my soul to fancy ought 5
 But a white, celestial thought;
 When yet I had not walked above
 A mile or two from my first love,
 And looking back—at that short space—
 Could see a glimpse of His bright face; 10
 When on some gilded cloud or flower
 My gazing soul would dwell an hour,
 And in those weaker glories spy
 Some shadows of eternity;
 Before I taught my tongue to wound 15
 My conscience with a sinful sound,
 Or had the black art to dispense,
 A several sin to every sense,
 But felt through all this fleshly dress
 Bright shoots of everlastingness. 20
 O how I long to travel back,
 And tread again that ancient track!
 That I might once more reach that plain,
 Where first I left my glorious train;
 From whence the enlightened spirit sees 25
 That shady city of palm trees.
 But ah! my soul with too much stay
 Is drunk, and staggers in the way!
 Some men a forward motion love,
 But I by backward steps would move; 30
 And when this dust falls to the urn,
 In that state I came, return.

PEACE

My soul, there is a country
 Afar beyond the stars,
 Where stands a wingèd sentry
 All skilful in the wars.
 There, above noise and danger, 5
 Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,
 And one born in a manger
 Commands the beauteous files.
 He is thy gracious friend,
 And—O my soul, awake!— 10
 Did in pure love descend
 To die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,
 There grows the flower of peace,
 The rose that can not wither, 15
 Thy fortress and thy ease.
 Leave then thy foolish ranges,
 For none can thee secure
 But one who never changes,
 Thy God, thy life, thy cure. 20

THE WORLD

I saw Eternity the other night,
 Like a great ring of pure and endless light,
 All calm, as it was bright;
 And round beneath it, Time, in hours,
 days, years,
 Driv'n by the spheres 5
 Like a vast shadow moved; in which the
 world
 And all her train were hurled.
 The doting lover in his quaintest strain
 Did there complain;
 Near him, his lute, his fancy, and his
 flights, 10
 Wit's four delights,
 With gloves and knots, the silly snares of
 pleasure;
 Yet his dear treasure,
 All scattered lay, while he his eyes did
 pour
 Upon a flower. 15
 The darksome statesman, hung with
 weights and woe,
 Like a thick midnight-fog, moved there so
 slow,
 He did not stay nor go;
 Condemning thoughts, like sad eclipses,
 scowl
 Upon his soul, 20
 And clouds of crying witnesses without
 Pursued him with one shout;
 Yet digged the mole, and lest his ways be
 found,
 Worked under ground,
 Where he did clutch his prey. But one
 did see 25
 That policy:
 Churches and altars fed him; perjuries
 Were gnats and flies;
 It rained about him blood and tears, but he
 Drank them as free. 30

The fearful miser on a heap of rust
Sat pining all his life there, did scarce
trust

His own hands with the dust,
Yet would not place one piece above, but
lives

In fear of thieves. 35
Thousands there were as frantic as him-
self,

And hugged each one his pelf;
The downright epicure placed heaven in
sense,

And scorned pretence;
While others, slipped into a wide ex-
cess, 40

Said little less;
The weaker sort, slight, trivial wares en-
slave,

Who think them brave;
And poor, despised Truth sat counting by
Their victory. 45

Yet some, who all this while did weep and
sing,
And sing and weep, soared up into the
ring;

But most would use no wing.
O fools, said I, thus to prefer dark night
Before true light! 50
To live in grots and caves, and hate the
day

Because it shows the way,
The way, which from this dead and dark
abode

Leads up to God;
A way where you might tread the sun, and
be 55

More bright than he!
But, as I did their madness so discuss,
One whispered thus:

"This ring the Bridegroom did for none
provide
But for his bride." 60

EDMUND WALLER (1606-1687)

ON A GIRDLE

That which her slender waist confined
Shall now my joyful temples bind;
No monarch but would give his crown,
His arms might do what this has done.

It was my heaven's extremest sphere, 5
The pale which held that lovely deer;
My joy, my grief, my hope, my love,
Did all within this circle move.

A narrow compass, and yet there
Dwelt all that's good and all that's fair; 10
Give me but what this ribband bound,
Take all the rest the sun goes round!

GO, LOVELY ROSE!

Go, lovely rose!
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee, 5
How sweet and fair she seems to be. 5

Tell her that's young,
And shuns to have her graces spied,
That hadst thou sprung
In deserts, where no men abide, 10
Thou must have uncommended died. 10

Small is the worth
Of beauty from the light retired;
Bid her come forth,
Suffer herself to be desired, 15
And not blush so to be admired. 15

Then die! that she
The common fate of all things rare
May read in thee;
How small a part of time they share 20
That are so wondrous sweet and fair! 20

ANDREW MARVELL (1621-1678)

AN HORATIAN ODE UPON CROM- WELL'S RETURN FROM IRE- LAND

The forward youth that would appear
Must now forsake his muses dear,
Nor in the shadows sing
His numbers languishing:

'Tis time to leave the books in dust, 5
And oil the unused armor's rust,
Removing from the wall
The corselet of the hall.

So restless Cromwell would not cease In the inglorious arts of peace, But through adventurous war Urgèd his active star;	10	That thence the royal actor borne The tragic scaffold might adorn, While round the armed bands Did clap their bloody hands.	55
And, like the three-forked lightning, first Breaking the clouds where it was nursed, Did thorough his own side His fiery way divide;	15	He nothing common did, or mean, Upon that memorable scene, But with his keener eye The axe's edge did try;	60
For 'tis all one to courage high, The emulous, or enemy, And with such to inclose, Is more than to oppose.	20	Nor called the gods with vulgar spite To vindicate his helpless right, But bowed his comely head Down, as upon a bed.	
Then burning through the air he went, And palaces and temples rent; And Cæsar's head at last Did through his laurels blast.		This was that memorable hour, Which first assured the forcèd power; So, when they did design The capitol's first line,	65
'Tis madness to resist or blame The face of angry heaven's flame; And if we would speak true, Much to the man is due,	25	A bleeding head, where they begun, Did fright the architects to run; And yet in that the state Foresaw its happy fate.	70
Who from his private gardens, where He lived reservèd and austere, As if his highest plot To plant the bergamot, ¹	30	And now the Irish are ashamed To see themselves in one year tamed; So much one man can do, That does both act and know.	75
Could by industrious valor climb To ruin the great work of Time, And cast the kingdoms old, Into another mould,	35	They can affirm his praises best, And have, though overcome, confessed How good he is, how just, And fit for highest trust;	80
Though Justice against Fate complain, And plead the ancient rights in vain; But those do hold or break, As men are strong or weak.	40	Nor yet grown stiffer with command, But still in the republic's hand, How fit he is to sway, That can so well obey!	
Nature, that hateth emptiness, Allows of penetration less, And therefore must make room Where greater spirits come.		He to the Commons' feet presents A kingdom for his first year's rents; And, what he may, forbears His fame, to make it theirs;	85
What field of all the civil war, Where his were not the deepest scar? And Hampton shows what part He had of wiser art;	45	And has his sword and spoils ungirt, To lay them at the public's skirt: So when the falcon high Falls heavy from the sky,	90
Where, twining subtle fears with hope, He wove a net of such a scope That Charles himself might chase To Caresbrooke's narrow case,	50	She, having killed, no more doth search, But on the next green bough to perch; Where, when he first does lure, The falconer has her sure.	95

¹ a kind of pear.

What may not then our isle presume,
While victory his crest does plume?
What may not others fear,
If thus he crowns each year? 100

As Cæsar, he, ere long, to Gaul,
To Italy a Hannibal,
And to all states not free
Shall climacteric be.

The Pict¹ no shelter now shall find 105
Within his parti-colored mind,
But, from this valor sad,²
Shrink underneath the plaid;

Happy if in the tufted brake
The English hunter him mistake, 110
Nor lay his hounds in near
The Caledonian deer.

But thou, the war's and Fortune's son,
March undefatigably on;
And for the least effect, 115
Still keep the sword erect;

Besides the force it has to fright
The spirits of the shady night,
The same arts that did gain
A power, must it maintain. 120

ABRAHAM COWLEY (1618-1667)

THE CHANGE

Love in her sunny eyes does basking play;
Love walks the pleasant mazes of her
hair;
Love does on both her lips forever stray,
And sows and reaps a thousand kisses
there.
In all her outward parts Love's always
seen; 5
But oh! he never went within!

Within, Love's foes, his greatest foes,
abide:
Malice, Inconstancy, and Pride.
So the earth's face trees, herbs, and
flowers do dress,
But with other beauties numberless; 10
But at the center darkness is, and hell,
There wicked spirits, and there the
damned, dwell.

¹ Scot.

² resolute.

With me, alas, quite contrary it fares:
Darkness and Death lies in my waking
eyes;
Despair and Paleness in my face ap-
pears, 15
And Grief and Fear, Love's greatest
enemies.
But, like the Persian tyrant, Love within
Keeps his proud court, and ne'er is seen.

Oh take my heart, and by that means
you'll prove
Within, too, stored enough of Love; 20
Give me but yours, I'll by that change so
thrive
That Love in all my parts shall live.
So powerful is this change it render can
My outside woman, and your inside,
man.

THE WISH

Well then! I now do plainly see
This busy world and I shall ne'er agree.
The very honey of all earthly joy
Does of all meats the soonest cloy;
And they, methinks, deserve my pity 5
Who for it can endure the stings,
The crowd and buzz and murmurings,
Of this great hive, the city.

Ah, yet, ere I descend to the grave
May I a small house and large garden
have, 10
And a few friends, and many books, both
true,
Both wise, and both delightful too!
And since love ne'er will from me flee,
A mistress moderately fair,
And good as guardian angels are, 15
Only beloved, and loving me.

O fountains! when in you shall I
Myself, eased of unpeaceful thoughts,
espy?
O fields! O woods! when, when shall I be
made
The happy tenant of your shade? 20
Here's the spring-head of pleasure's
flood:
Here's wealthy Nature's treasury,
Where all the riches lie that she
Has coined and stamped for good.

Pride and ambition here 25
 Only in far-fetched metaphors appear;
 Here naught but winds can hurtful mur-
 murs scatter,
 And naught but Echo flatter.

The gods, when they descended, hither
 From heaven did always choose their way:
 And therefore we may boldly say 31
 That 'tis the way, too, thither.

How happy here should I
 And one dear She live, and embracing die!
 She who is all the world, and can exclude
 In deserts solitude. 36

I should have then this only fear:
 Lest men, when they my pleasures see,
 Should hither throng to live like me,
 And so make a city here. 40

THE SWALLOW

Foolish Prater, what do'st thou
 So early at my window do
 With thy tuneless serenade?
 Well 't had been had Tereus made
 Thee as dumb as Philomel: 5
 There his knife had done but well.
 In thy undiscovered nest
 Thou dost all the winter rest,
 And dreamest o'er thy summer joys,
 Free from the stormy season's noise: 10
 Free from th' ill thou'st done to me;
 Who disturbs, or seeks out thee?
 Had'st thou all the charming notes
 Of the wood's poetic throats,
 All thy art could never pay 15
 What thou'st ta'en from me away;
 Cruel bird, thou'st ta'en away
 A dream out of my arms to-day,
 A dream that ne'er must equalled be
 By all that waking eyes may see. 20
 Thou this damage to repair,
 Nothing half so sweet or fair,
 Nothing half so good can'st bring,
 Though men say, "Thou bring'st the
 spring?"

THE THIEF

Thou robbest my days of business and
 delights,
 Of sleep thou robbest my nights;

Ah, lovely thief, what wilt thou do?
 What, rob me of Heaven too?
 Thou even my prayers dost steal from
 me, 5
 And I, with wild idolatry,
 Begin to God, and end them all to thee.

Is it a sin to love, that it should thus
 Like an ill conscience, torture us?
 Whate'er I do, where e'er I go, 10
 (None guiltless e'er was haunted so)
 Still, still, methinks thy face I view,
 And still thy shape does me pursue,
 As if not you me, but I had murdered you.

From books I strive some remedy to take,
 But thy name all the letters make; 16
 Whate'er 'tis writ, I find that there,
 Like points and commas everywhere.
 Me blest for this let no man hold;
 For I, as Midas did of old, 20
 Perish by turning everything to gold.

What do I seek, alas, or why do I
 Attempt in vain from thee to fly?
 For making thee my deity
 I give thee then ubiquity. 25
 My pains resemble hell in this:
 The divine presence there too is,
 But to torment men, not to give them
 bliss.

CHARLES SACKVILLE, EARL OF DORSET (1638-1706)

SONG

To all you ladies now at land
 We men at sea indite;
 But first would have you understand
 How hard it is to write:
 The Muses now, and Neptune too, 3
 We must implore to write to you—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

For though the Muses should prove kind,
 And fill our empty brain,
 Yet if rough Neptune rouse the wind 10
 To wave the azure main,
 Our paper, pen, and ink, and we,
 Roll up and down our ships at sea—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

Then if we write not by each post, 15
 Think not we are unkind;
 Nor yet conclude our ships are lost
 By Dutchmen or by wind:
 Our tears we'll send a speedier way,
 The tide shall bring them twice a day— 20
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

The King with wonder and surprise
 Will swear the seas grow bold,
 Because the tides will higher rise
 Than e'er they did of old; 25
 But let him know it is our tears
 Bring floods of grief to Whitehall stairs—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

Should foggy Opdam chance to know
 Our sad and dismal story, 30
 The Dutch would scorn so weak a foe,
 And quit their fort at Goree;
 For what resistance can they find
 From men who've left their hearts be-
 hind?—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la! 35

Let wind and weather do its worst,
 Be you to us but kind;
 Let Dutchmen vapor,¹ Spaniards curse,
 No sorrow we shall find;
 'Tis then no matter how things go, 40
 Or who's our friend, or who's our foe—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

To pass our tedious hours away
 We throw a merry main,
 Or else at serious ombre² play; 45
 But why should we in vain
 Each other's ruin thus pursue?
 We were undone when we left you—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

But now our fears tempestuous grow 50
 And cast our hopes away,
 Whilst you, regardless of our woe,
 Sit careless at a play,
 Perhaps permit some happier man
 To kiss your hand, or flirt your fan— 55
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

When any mournful tune you hear
 That dies in every note,
 As if it sighed with each man's care
 For being so remote, 60

¹ boast.² a game of cards.

Think then how often love we've made
 To you, when all those tunes were played—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

In justice you cannot refuse
 To think of our distress, 65
 When we for hopes of honor lose
 Our certain happiness:
 All those designs are but to prove
 Ourselves more worthy of your love—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la! 70

And now we've told you all our loves,
 And likewise all our fears,
 In hopes this declaration moves
 Some pity for our tears:
 Let's hear of no inconstancy— 75
 We have too much of that at sea—
 With a fa, la, la, la, la!

CAROLINE PROSE

SIR THOMAS BROWNE (1605-1682)

From HYDRIOTAPHIA *or* URN BURIAL

Now since these dead bones have
 already outlasted the living ones of Me-
 thusaleh, and, in a yard under ground
 and their walls of clay, outworn all the
 strong and specious buildings above it;
 and quietly rested under the drums and
 trappings of three conquests: what
 prince can promise such diuturnity unto
 his relics, or might not gladly say,

Sic ego componi versus in ossa velim? [10

Time, which antiquates antiquities, and
 hath an art to make dust of all things,
 hath yet spared these minor monuments.

In vain we hope to be known by open
 and visible conservatories, when to be
 unknown was the means of their continua-
 tion, and obscurity their protection. If
 they died by violent hands, and were
 thrust into their urns, these bones be-
 come considerable, and some old [20
 philosophers would honor them, whose
 souls they conceived most pure, which
 were thus snatched from their bodies,
 and to retain a stronger propension unto
 them; whereas they weariedly left a lan-
 guishing corpse, and with faint desires of

reunion. If they fell by long and aged decay, yet wrapped up in the bundle of time, they fall into indistinction, and make but one blot with infants. If we begin to [30 die when we live, and long life be but a prolongation of death, our life is a sad composition; we live with death, and die not in a moment. How many pulses made up the life of Methuselah, were work for Archimedes: common counters sum up the life of Moses his man. Our days become considerable, like petty sums, by minute accumulations; where numerous fractions make up but small [40 round numbers; and our days of a span long, make not one little finger.

If the nearness of our last necessity brought a nearer conformity into it, there were a happiness in hoary hairs, and no calamity in half-senses. But the long habit of living indisposeth us for dying; when avarice makes us the sport of death, when even David grew politicly cruel, and Solomon could hardly be said to [50 be the wisest of men. But many are too early old, and before the date of age. Adversity stretcheth our days, misery makes Alcmena's nights, and time hath no wings unto it. But the most tedious being is that which can unwish itself, content to be nothing, or never to have been, which was beyond the malcontent of Job, who cursed not the day of his life, but his nativity; content to have so [60 far been, as to have title to future being, although he had lived here but in an hidden state of life, and as it were an abortion.

What song the Sirens sang, or what name Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women, though puzzling questions, are not beyond all conjecture. What time the persons of these ossuaries entered the famous nations of the [70 dead, and slept with princes and counsellors, might admit a wide solution. But who were the proprietaries of these bones, or what bodies these ashes made up, were a question above antiquarianism; not to be resolved by man, nor easily perhaps by spirits, except we consult the provincial guardians, or tutelary observators. Had they made as good provision for their names as they have done for their [80

relics, they had not so grossly erred in the art of perpetuation. But to subsist in bones, and be but pyramidally extant, is a fallacy in duration. Vain ashes, which, in the oblivion of names, persons, times and sexes, have found unto themselves a fruitless continuation, and only arise unto late posterity as emblems of mortal vanities, antidotes against pride, vain-glory, and madding vices! Pagan vain- [90 glories, which thought the world might last forever, had encouragement for ambition; and finding no *Atropos* unto the immortality of their names, were never damped with the necessity of oblivion. Even old ambitions had the advantage of ours in the attempts of their vain-glories, who acting early, and before the probable meridian of time, have by this time found great accomplishment of their de- [100 signs, whereby the ancient heroes have already out-lasted their monuments and mechanical preservations. But in this latter scene of time we cannot expect such mummies unto our memories, when ambition may fear the prophecy of Elias; and Charles the Fifth can never hope to live within two Methuselahs of Hector.

And therefore restless inquietude for the diuturnity of our memories unto [110 present considerations seems a vanity almost out of date, and superannuated piece of folly. We cannot hope to live so long in our names as some have done in their persons. One face of Janus holds no proportion to the other. 'Tis too late to be ambitious. The great mutations of the world are acted, or time may be too short for our designs. To extend our memories by monuments, whose death we [120 daily pray for, and whose duration we cannot hope without injury to our expectations in the advent of the last day, were a contradiction to our beliefs. We, whose generations are ordained in this setting part of time, are providentially taken off from such imaginations; and, being necessitated to eye the remaining particle of futurity, are naturally constituted unto thoughts of the next [130 world, and cannot excusably decline the consideration of that duration which maketh pyramids pillars of snow, and all that's past a moment.

Circles and right lines limit and close all bodies, and the mortal right-lined circle must conclude and shut up all. There is no antidote against the opium of time, which temporally considereth all things: our fathers find their graves [140 in our short memories, and sadly tell us how we may be buried in our survivors. Grave-stones tell truth scarce forty years. Generations pass while some trees stand, and old families last not three oaks. To be read by bare inscriptions, like many in Gruter, to hope for eternity by enigmatical epithets or first letters of our names, to be studied by antiquaries who we were, and have new names given [150 us like many of the mummies, are cold consolations unto the students of perpetuity, even by everlasting languages.

To be content that times to come should only know there was such a man, not caring whether they knew more of him, was a frigid ambition in Cardan, disparaging his horoscopol inclination and judgment of himself. Who cares to subsist like Hippocrates' patients, [160 or Achilles' horses in Homer, under naked nominations, without deserts and noble acts, which are the balsam of our memories, the *entelechia* and soul of our subsistences? To be nameless in worthy deeds exceeds an infamous history. The Canaanitish woman lives more happily without a name, than Herodias with one. And who had not rather have been the good thief, than Pilate? [170

But the iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy, and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit of perpetuity. Who can but pity the founder of the pyramids? Herostratus lives that burnt the temple of Diana; he is almost lost that built it. Time hath spared the epitaph of Adrian's horse, confounded that of himself. In vain we compute our felicities by the advance [180 tage of our good names, since bad have equal durations; and Thersites is like to live as long as Agamemnon. Who knows whether the best of men be known, or whether there be not more remarkable persons forgot, than any that stand remembered in the known account of time? Without the favor of the everlasting

register the first man had been as unknown as the last, and Methuselah's [190 long life had been his only chronicle.

Oblivion is not to be hired. The greater part must be content to be as though they had not been, to be found in the register of God, not in the record of man. Twenty-seven names make up the first story before the flood, and the recorded names ever since contain not one living century. The number of the dead long exceedeth all that shall live. The night of time [200 far surpasseth the day, and who knows when was the equinox? Every hour adds unto that current arithmetic, which scarce stands one moment. And since death must be the *Lucina* of life, and even pagans could doubt whether thus to live were to die; since our longest sun sets at right descensions, and makes but winter arches, and therefore it cannot be long before we lie down in darkness, [210 and have our light in ashes; since the brother of death daily haunts us with dying mementos, and time, that grows old in itself, bids us hope no long duration: diuturnity is a dream and folly of expectation.

Darkness and light divide the course of time, and oblivion shares with memory a great part even of our living beings; we slightly remember our felicities, and [220 the smartest strokes of affliction leave but short smart upon us. Sense endureth no extremities, and sorrows destroy us or themselves. To weep into stones are fables. Afflictions induce callosities; miseries are slippery, or fall like snow upon us, which notwithstanding is no unhappy stupidity. To be ignorant of evils to come, and forgetful of evils past, is a merciful provision in nature, whereby [230 we digest the mixture of our few and evil days, and our delivered senses not relapsing into cutting remembrances, our sorrows are not kept raw by the edge of repetitions. A great part of antiquity contented their hopes of subsistency with a transmigration of their souls,—a good way to continue their memories; while having the advantage of plural successions, they could not but act some- [240 thing remarkable in such variety of beings, and enjoying the fame of their passed

selves, make accumulation of glory unto their last durations. Others, rather than be lost in the uncomfortable night of nothing, were content to recede into the common being, and make one particle of the public soul of all things, which was no more than to return into their unknown and divine original again. Egyptian ingenuity was more unsatisfied, contriving their bodies in sweet consistencies to attend the return of their souls. But all was vanity, feeding the wind, and folly. The Egyptian mummies, which Cambyzes or time hath spared, avarice now consumeth. Mummy is become merchandise, Mizraim cures wounds, and Pharaoh is sold for balsams.

In vain do individuals hope for immortality, or any patent from oblivion, in preservations below the moon; men have been deceived even in their flat-teries above the sun, and studied conceits to perpetuate their names in heaven. The various cosmography of that part hath already varied the names of contrived constellations; Nimrod is lost in Orion, and Osiris in the dog-star. While we look for incorruption in the heavens, we find they are but like the earth; durable in their main bodies, alterable in their parts: whereof, beside comets and new stars, perspectives begin to tell tales; and the spots that wander about the sun, with Phæthon's favor, would make clear conviction.

There is nothing strictly immortal but immortality. Whatever hath no beginning may be confident of no end—which is the peculiar of that necessary essence that cannot destroy itself—and the highest strain of omnipotency, to be so powerfully constituted, as not to suffer even from the power of itself. All others have a dependent being and within the reach of destruction. But the sufficiency of Christian immortality frustrates all earthly glory, and the quality of either state after death makes a folly of posthumous memory. God, who can only destroy our souls, and hath assured our resurrection, either of our bodies or names hath directly promised no duration. Wherein there is so much of chance, that the boldest expectants have found un-

happy frustration; and to hold long subsistence, seems but a scape in oblivion. But man is a noble animal, splendid in ashes, and pompous in the grave, solemnizing nativities and deaths with equal lustre, nor omitting ceremonies of bravery in the infamy of his nature.

Life is a pure flame, and we live by an invisible sun within us. A small fire sufficeth for life; great flames seemed too little after death, while men vainly affected precious pyres, and to burn like Sardanapalus. But the wisdom of funeral laws found the folly of prodigal blazes, and reduced undoing fires unto the rule of sober obsequies, wherein few could be so mean as not to provide wood, pitch, a mourner, and an urn.

Five languages secured not the epitaph of Gordianus. The man of God lives longer without a tomb than any by one, invisibly interred by angels, and adjudged to obscurity, though not without some marks directing human discovery. Enoch and Elias, without either tomb or burial, in an anomalous state of being, are the great examples of perpetuity in their long and living memory, in strict account being still on this side death, and having a late part yet to act upon this stage of earth. If in the decreitory term of the world we shall not all die, but be changed, according to received translation, the last day will make but few graves; at least quick resurrections will anticipate lasting sepultures. Some graves will be opened before they be quite closed, and Lazarus be no wonder, when many that feared to die shall groan that they can die but once. The dismal state is the second and living death, when life puts despair on the damned; when men shall wish the coverings of mountains, not of monuments, and annihilations shall be courted.

While some have studied monuments, others have studiously declined them, and some have been so vainly boisterous that they durst not acknowledge their graves; wherein Alaricus seems most subtle, who had a river turned to hide his bones at the bottom. Even Sylla, that thought himself safe in his urn, could not prevent revenging tongues, and stones thrown

at his monument. Happy are they whom privacy makes innocent, who deal so with men in this world, that they are not afraid to meet them in the next; who, when they die, make no commotion among the dead, and are not touched with that poetical taunt of Isaiah.

* * * * *

To subsist in lasting monuments, to live in their productions, to exist in their names and predicament of chimeras, [360 was large satisfaction unto old expectations, and made one part of their Elysiums. But all this is nothing in the metaphysics of true belief. To live indeed, is to be again ourselves, which being not only an hope, but an evidence in noble believers, 'tis all one to lie in St. Innocent's churchyard, as in the sands of Egypt. Ready to be anything, in the ecstasy of being ever, and as content with [370 six foot as the *moles* of Adrianus.

THOMAS FULLER (1608-1661)

THE GOOD SCHOOLMASTER

From THE HOLY STATE

There is scarce any profession in the commonwealth more necessary, which is so slightly performed. The reasons whereof I conceive to be these: First, young scholars make this calling their refuge; yea, perchance before they have taken any degree in the university, commence schoolmasters in the country, as if nothing else were required to set up this profession, but only a rod and a [10 ferula. Secondly, others, who are able, use it only as a passage to better preferment, to patch the rents in their present fortune till they can provide a new one, and betake themselves to some more gainful calling. Thirdly, they are disheartened from doing their best with the miserable reward which in some places they receive, being masters to their children and slaves to their parents. [20 Fourthly, being grown rich, they grow negligent, and scorn to touch the school but by the proxy of an usher. But see

how well our schoolmaster behaves himself.

His genius inclines him with delight to his profession. Some men had as lief be schoolboys as schoolmasters, to be tied to the school, as Cooper's "Dictionary" and Scapula's "Lexicon" [30 are chained to the desk therein; and though great scholars, and skilful in other arts, are bunglers in this: but God of His goodness hath fitted several men for several callings, that the necessity of Church and State in all conditions may be provided for. So that he who beholds the fabric thereof may say, "God hewed out this stone, and appointed it to lie in this very place, for it would fit none [40 other so well, and here it doth most excellent." And thus God mouldeth some for a schoolmaster's life, undertaking it with desire and delight, and discharging it with dexterity and happy success.

He studieth his scholars' natures as carefully as they their books, and ranks their dispositions into several forms. And though it may seem difficult for him in a great school to descend to all par- [50 ticulars, yet experienced schoolmasters may quickly make a grammar of boys' natures, and reduce them all, saving some few exceptions, to these general rules:

1. Those that are ingenious and industrious. The conjunction of two such planets in a youth presages much good unto him. To such a lad a frown may be a whipping, and a whipping a death; yea, where their master whips them once, [60 shame whips them all the week after. Such natures he useth with all gentleness.

2. Those that are ingenious and idle. These think, with the hare in the fable, that running with snails (so they count the rest of their schoolfellows) they shall come soon enough to the post, though sleeping a good while before their starting. Oh, a good rod would finely take them napping! [70

3. Those that are dull and diligent. Wines, the stronger they be, the more lees they have when they are new. Many boys are muddy-headed till they be clarified with age, and such afterwards prove the best. Bristol diamonds are both bright and squared and pointed by nature,

and yet are soft and worthless; whereas, orient ones in India are rough and rugged naturally. Hard, rugged, and dull [80] natures of youth acquit themselves afterwards the jewels of the country, and therefore their dullness at first is to be borne with, if they be diligent. That schoolmaster deserves to be beaten himself who beats nature in a boy for a fault. And I question whether all the whipping in the world can make their parts, which are naturally sluggish, rise one minute before the hour nature hath appointed. [90]

4. Those that are invincibly dull, and negligent also. Correction may reform the latter, not amend the former. All the whetting in the world can never set a razor's edge on that which hath no steel in it. Such boys he consigneth over to other professions. Shipwrights and boat-makers will choose those crooked pieces of timber which other carpenters refuse. Those may make excellent merchants [100] and mechanics who will not serve for scholars.

He is able, diligent, and methodical in his teaching; not leading them rather in a circle than forwards. He minces his precepts for children to swallow, hanging clogs on the nimbleness of his own soul, that his scholars may go along with him.

He is, and will be known to be, an absolute monarch in his school. If [110] cockering mothers proffer him money to purchase their sons an exemption from his rod (to live as it were in a peculiar, out of their master's jurisdiction), with disdain he refuseth it, and scorns the late custom in some places of commuting whipping into money, and ransoming boys from the rod at a set price. If he hath a stubborn youth, correction-proof, he debaseth not his authority by contesting [120] with him, but fairly, if he can, puts him away before his obstinacy hath infected others.

He is moderate in inflicting deserved correction. Many a schoolmaster better answereth the name παιδοτρίβης than παιδαγωγός, rather tearing his scholars' flesh with whipping than giving them good education. No wonder if his scholars hate the Muses, being presented unto [130] them in the shapes of fiends and furies.

Junius complains *de insolenti carnificina* of his schoolmaster, by whom *conscindebatur flagris septies aut octies in dies singulos*. Yea, hear the lamentable verses of poor Tusser in his own life:

"From Paul's I went, to Eton sent.
To learn straightways the Latin phrase,
Where fifty-three stripes given to me
At once I had. [140]

"For fault but small, or none at all,
It came to pass thus beat I was;
See Udall, see the mercy of thee
To me, poor lad."

Such an Orbilius mars more scholars than he makes: their tyranny hath caused many tongues to stammer, which spake plain by nature, and whose stuttering at first was nothing else but fears quavering on their speech at their master's [150] presence; and whose mauling them about their heads hath dulled those who, in quickness, exceeded their master.

He makes his school free to him who sues to him *in forma pauperis*. And surely learning is the greatest alms that can be given. But he is a beast who, because the poor scholar cannot pay him his wages, pays the scholar in his whipping. Rather are diligent lads to be encouraged [160] with all excitements to learning. This minds me of what I have heard concerning Mr. Bust, that worthy late schoolmaster of Eton, who would never suffer any wandering begging scholar (such as justly the statute hath ranked in the forefront of rogues) to come into his school, but would thrust him out with earnestness (however privately charitable unto him), lest his schoolboys should be dis- [170] heartened from their books by seeing some scholars, after their studying in the university, preferred to beggary.

He spoils not a good school to make thereof a bad college, therein to teach his scholars logic. For, besides that logic may have an action of trespass against grammar for encroaching on her liberties, syllogisms are solecisms taught in the school, and oftentimes they are forced [180] afterwards in the university to unlearn the fumbling skill they had before.

Out of his school he is no whit pedantical in carriage or discourse; contenting himself to be rich in Latin, though he doth not jingle with it in every company wherein he comes.

To conclude, let this amongst other motives make schoolmasters careful in their place, that the eminencies of [190 their scholars have commended the memories of their schoolmasters to posterity, who otherwise in obscurity had altogether been forgotten. Who had ever heard of R. Bond, in Lancashire, but for the breeding of learned Ascham, his scholar, or of Hartgrave, in Burnley school, in the same county, but because he was the first did teach worthy Dr. Whitaker? Nor do I honor the memory of Mulcaster for [200 anything so much as for his scholar, that gulf of learning, Bishop Andrews. This made the Athenians, the day before the great feast of Theseus, their founder, to sacrifice a ram to the memory of Conidas, his schoolmaster, that first instructed him.

THE LIFE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

From THE HOLY STATE

We intermeddle not with her description, as she was a sovereign prince, too high for our pen, and performed by others already, though not by any done so fully but that still room is left for the endeavors of posterity to add thereunto. We consider her only as she was a worthy lady, her private virtues rendering her to the imitation, and her public to the admiration, of all. [10

Her royal birth by her father's side doth comparatively make her mother-descent seem low, which otherwise, considered in itself, was very noble and honorable. As for the bundle of scandalous aspersions by some cast on her birth, they are best to be buried without once opening of them. For as the rascal will presume to miscall the best lord, when far enough out of his hearing, so slan- [20 derous tongues think they may run riot in railing on any, when once got out of the distance of time and reach of con-

futation. But majesty, which dieth not, will not suffer itself to be so abused, seeing the best assurance which living princes have that their memories shall be honorably continued is founded (next to their own deserts) in the maintaining of the unstained reputation of their pred- [30 ecessors. Yea, Divine Justice seems herein to be a compurgator of the parents of Queen Elizabeth, in that Nicholas Sanders, a Popish priest, the first raiser of these wicked reports, was accidentally famished as he roved up and down in Ireland; either because it was just he should be starved that formerly surfeited with lying, or because that island, out of a natural antipathy against poisonous [40 creatures, would not lend life to so venomous a slanderer.

Under the reign of her father, and brother King Edward VI (who commonly called her his "sister Temperance"), she lived in a princely fashion. But the case was altered with her when her sister Mary came to the crown, who ever looked upon her with a jealous and frowning face, chiefly because of the difference be- [50 tween them in religion. For though Queen Mary is said of herself not so much as to have barked, yet she had under her those who did more than bite; and rather her religion than disposition was guilty in countenancing their cruelty by her authority.

This antipathy against her sister Elizabeth was increased with the remembrance how Catherine dowager, Queen Mary's [60 mother, was justled out of the bed of Henry VIII by Anna Boleyn, mother to Queen Elizabeth; so that these two sisters were born, as I may say, not only in several, but opposite, horizons, so that the elevation and bright appearing of the one inferred the necessary obscurity and depression of the other; and still Queen Mary was troubled with this *fit of the mother*, which incensed her against [70 this her half-sister. To which two grand causes of opposition this third may also be added, because not so generally known, though in itself of lesser consequence: Queen Mary had released Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, out of the Tower, where long he had been detained

prisoner, a gentleman of a beautiful body, sweet nature, and royal descent; intending him, as it was generally [80 conceived, to be a husband for herself. For when the said earl petitioned the queen for leave to travel, she advised him rather to marry, insuring him that no lady in the land, how high soever, would refuse him for a husband; and urging him to make his choice where he pleased, she pointed herself out unto him as plainly as might stand with the modesty of a maid and majesty of a queen. Here- [90 upon the young earl—whether because that his long durance had some influence on his brain, or that naturally his face was better than his head, or out of some private fancy and affection to the Lady Elizabeth, or out of loyal bashfulness, not presuming to climb higher, but expecting to be called up—is said to have requested the queen for leave to marry her sister Elizabeth, unhappy that [100 his choice either went so high or no higher. For who could have spoken worse treason against Mary, (though not against the queen), than to prefer her sister before her? And she, innocent lady, did afterwards dearly pay the score of this earl's indiscretion.

For these reasons Lady Elizabeth was closely kept and narrowly sifted all her sister's reign, Sir Henry Bedingfield, [110 her keeper, using more severity towards her than his place required, yea, more than a good man should—or a wise man would—have done. No doubt the least tripping of her foot should have cost her the losing of her head, if they could have caught her to be privy to any conspiracies.

This lady as well deserved the title of "Elizabeth the Confessor" as ever Edward, her ancient predecessor, did. [120 Mr. Ascham was a good schoolmaster to her, but affliction was a better; so that it is hard to say whether she was more happy in having a crown so soon, or in having it no sooner, till affliction had first laid in her a low—and therefore sure—foundation of humility for highness to be afterwards built thereupon.

We bring her now from the cross to the crown, and come we now to describe [130 the rare endowments of her mind; when,

behold, her virtues almost stifle my pen, they crowd in so fast upon it.

She was an excellent scholar, understanding the Greek, and perfectly speaking the Latin: witness her extempore speech in answer to the Polish ambassador, and another at Cambridge, *Et si fæminalis iste meus pudor* (for so it began), elegantly making the word *fæminalis*; [140 and well might she mint one new word who did refine so much new gold and silver. Good skill she had in the French and Italian, using interpreters not for need, but state. She was a good poet in English, and fluently made verses. In her time of persecution, when a Popish priest pressed her very hardly to declare her opinion concerning the presence of Christ in the sacrament, she truly and [150 warily presented her judgment in these verses:

"'Twas God the Word that spake it,
He took the bread and brake it;
And what the Word did make it,
That I believe, and take it."

And though perchance some may say, "This was but the best of shifts and the worst of answers, because the distinct manner of the presence must be be- [160 lieved," yet none can deny it to have been a wise return to an adversary who lay at wait for all advantages. Nor was her poetic vein less happy in Latin. When, a little before the Spanish invasion in eighty-eight, the Spanish ambassador, after a larger representation of his master's demands, had summed up the effect thereof in a tetrastich, she instantly in one verse rejoined her answer. We [170 will presume to English both, though confessing the Latin loseth lustre by the translation.

*Te veto ne pergas bello defendere Belgas;
Quæ Dracus eripuit nunc restituantur oportet;*

*Quas pater evertit jubeo te condere cellas;
Religio Papæ fac restituatur ad unguem.*

"These to you are our commands:
Send no help to the Netherlands;
Of the treasure took by Drake, [180
Restitution you must make;

And those abbeys build anew,
Which your father overthrew;
If for any peace you hope,
In all points restore the Pope."

THE QUEEN'S EXTEMPORE RETURN

*Ad Græcas, bone rex, fient mandata,
Calendas.*

"Worthy King, know this your will
At latter Lammass we'll fulfil."

Her piety to God was exemplary: none more constant or devout in private [190] prayers; very attentive also at sermons, wherein she was better affected with soundness of matter than quaintness of expression. She could not well digest the affected over-elegancy of such as prayed for her by the title of "Defendress of the Faith," and not the "Defender," it being no false construction to apply a masculine word to so heroic a spirit. She was very devout in returning thanks [200] to God for her constant and continual preservations: for one traitor's stab was scarce put by before another took aim at her. But as if the poisons of treason by custom were turned natural to her, by God's protection they did her no harm. In any design of consequence she loved to be long and well advised; but where her resolutions once seized, she would never let go her hold, according to her [210] motto, *Semper eadem*.

By her temperance she improved that stock of health which nature bestowed on her, using little wine and less physic. Her continence from pleasures was admirable, and she the paragon of spotless chastity, whatever some Popish priests (who count all virginity hid under a nun's veil) have feigned to the contrary. The best is, *their* words are no slander *whose* words [220] are all slander, so given to railing that they must be dumb if they do not blaspheme magistrates. One Jesuit made this false anagram on her name *Elizabeth*, JESABEL: false both in matter and manner. For allow it the abatement of H, (as all anagrams must sue in chancery for moderate favor), yet was it both unequal and ominous that T, a solid letter, should be omitted—the presage of the gallows [230]

whereon this anagrammatist was afterwards justly executed. Yea, let the testimony of Pope Sixtus V himself be believed, who professed that amongst all the princes in Christendom he found but two who were worthy to bear command, had they not been stained with heresy: namely, Henry IV, King of France, and Elizabeth, Queen of England. And we may presume that the Pope, if commending his enemy, is [240] therein infallible.

We come to her death, the discourse whereof was more welcome to her from the mouth of her private confessor than from a public preacher; and she loved rather to tell herself than to be told of her mortality, because the open mention thereof made, as she conceived, her subjects divide their loyalty betwixt the present and the future prince. We need [250] look into no other cause of her sickness than old age, being seventy years old (David's age), to which no king of England since the Conquest did attain. Her weakness was increased by her removal from London to Richmond in a cold winter day, sharp enough to pierce through those who were armed with health and youth. Also melancholy (the worst natural parasite—whosoever [260] feeds him shall never be rid of his company) much afflicted her, being given over to sadness and silence.

Then prepared she herself for another world, being more constant in prayer and pious exercises than ever before. Yet spake she very little to any, sighing out more than she said, and making still music to God in her heart. And as the red rose, though outwardly not so fra- [270] grant, is inwardly far more cordial than the damask, being more thrifty of its sweetness and reserving it in itself, so the religion of this dying queen was most turned inward, in soliloquies betwixt God and her own soul, though she wanted not outward expressions thereof. When her speech failed her, she spake with her heart, tears, eyes, hands, and other signs, so commending herself to God, the [280] best Interpreter, who understands what his saints desire to say. Thus died Queen Elizabeth: whilst living, the first maid on earth, and when dead, the second in

heaven. Surely the kingdom had died with their queen had not the fainting spirits thereof been refreshed by the coming-in of gracious King James.

She was of person, tall; of hair and complexion, fair, well-favored, but [290 high-nosed; of limbs and feature, neat; of a stately and majestic deportment. She had a piercing eye, wherewith she used to touch what mettle strangers were made of who came into her presence. But as she counted it a pleasant conquest with her majestic look to dash strangers out of countenance, so she was merciful in pursuing those whom she overcame; and afterwards would cherish and comfort [300 them with her smiles, if perceiving towardliness and an ingenuous modesty in them. She much affected rich and costly apparel; and if ever jewels had just cause to be proud, it was with her wearing them.

IZAAK WALTON (1593-1683)

From THE COMPLETE ANGLER

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS OF THE NATURE AND BREEDING OF THE TROUT, AND HOW TO FISH FOR HIM.

PISCATOR. The trout is a fish highly valued, both in this and foreign nations. He may be justly said, as the old poet said of wine, and we English say of venison, to be a generous fish: a fish that is so like the buck that he also has his seasons; for it is observed that he comes in and goes out of season with the stag and buck. Gesner says his name is of a German offspring, and says he is a fish that [10 feeds clean and purely, in the swiftest streams, and on the hardest gravel; and that he may justly contend with all freshwater fish, as the mullet may with all sea-fish, for precedence and daintiness of taste; and that being in right season, the most dainty palates have allowed precedence to him.

And before I go farther in my discourse, let me tell you, that you are to [20 observe, that as there be some barren

does that are good in summer, so there be some barren trouts that are good in winter; but there are not many that are so, for usually they be in their perfection in the month of May, and decline with the buck. Now you are to take notice that in several countries, as in Germany and in other parts, compared to ours, fish do differ much in their bigness [30 and shape, and other ways, and so do trouts: it is well known that in the Lake Leman, the Lake of Geneva, there are trouts taken of three cubits long, as is affirmed by Gesner, a writer of good credit; and Mercator says the trouts that are taken in the Lake of Geneva are a great part of the merchandise of that famous city. And you are further to know that there be certain waters that [40 breed trouts remarkable both for their number and smallness. I know a little brook in Kent that breeds them to a number incredible, and you may take them twenty or forty in an hour, but none greater than about the size of a gudgeon. There are also in divers rivers, especially that relate to or be near to the sea, as Winchester, or the Thames about Windsor, a little trout called a [50 samlet or skegger trout, in both which places I have caught twenty or forty at a standing, that will bite as fast and as freely as minnows: these be by some taken to be young salmons; but in those waters they never grow to be bigger than a herring.

There is also in Kent, near to Canterbury, a trout called there a Fordidge trout, a trout that bears the name of the [60 town where it is usually caught, that is accounted the rarest of fish: many of them near the bigness of salmon, but known by their different color; and in their best season they cut very white; and none of these have been known to be caught with an angle, unless it were one that was caught by Sir George Hastings, an excellent angler, and now with God: and he hath told me, he thought [70 that trout bit not for hunger but wantonness; and it is rather to be believed, because both he then, and many others before him, have been curious to search into their bellies, what the food was by

which they lived, and have found out nothing by which they might satisfy their curiosity.

Concerning which you are to take notice that it is reported by good authors that grasshoppers and some fish have no mouths, but are nourished and take breath by the porousness of their gills, man knows not how: and this may be believed, if we consider that when the raven hath hatched her eggs, she takes no further care, but leaves her young ones to the care of the God of nature, who is said, in the Psalms, "to feed the young ravens that call upon him." [90] And they be kept alive and fed by a dew, or worms that breed in their nests, or some other ways that we mortals know not. And this may be believed of the Fordidge trout, which, as it is said of the stork that "he knows his season," so he knows his times, I think almost his day of coming into that river out of the sea, where he lives, and, it is like, feeds, nine months of the year, and fasts three [100] in the river of Fordidge. And you are to note, that those townsmen are very punctual in observing the time of beginning to fish for them, and boast much that their river affords a trout that exceeds all others. And just so does Sussex boast of several fish: as namely, a Shelsey cockle, a Chichester lobster, an Arundel mullet, and an Amerly trout.

And now for some confirmation of [110] the Fordidge trout: you are to know that this trout is thought to eat nothing in the fresh water; and it may be the better believed, because it is well known that swallows, and bats, and wagtails, which are called half-year birds, and not seen to fly in England for six months in the year, but about Michaelmas leave us for a hotter climate, yet some of them that have been left behind their fellows, [120] have been found, many thousands at a time, in hollow trees, or clay caves, where they have been observed to live and sleep out the whole winter without meat. And so Albertus observes, that there is one kind of frog that hath her mouth naturally shut up about the end of August, and that she lives so all the winter; and though it be strange to some, yet it is

known to too many among us to be [130] doubted.

And so much for these Fordidge trouts, which never afford an angler sport, but either live their time of being in the fresh water, by their meat formerly got in the sea, not unlike the swallow or frog, or by the virtue of the fresh water only; or, as the birds of Paradise and the chameleon are said to live by the sun and the air.

There is also in Northumberland a [140] trout called a bull trout, of a much greater length and bigness than any in the southern parts. And there are, in many rivers that relate to the sea, salmon trouts, as much different from others, both in shape and in their spots, as we see sheep in some countries differ one from another in their shape and bigness, and in the fineness of their wool. And certainly, as some pastures breed larger sheep, so do [150] some rivers, by reason of the ground over which they run, breed larger trouts.

Now the next thing that I will commend to your consideration is that the trout is of a more sudden growth than other fish. Concerning which, you are also to take notice that he lives not so long as the perch and divers other fishes do, as Sir Francis Bacon hath observed in his *History of Life and Death*. [160]

And next you are to take notice that he is not like the crocodile, which if he lives never so long, yet always thrives till his death: but 'tis not so with the trout; for after he is come to his full growth, he declines in his body, and keeps his bigness or thrives only in his head till his death. And you are to know that he will about, especially before, the time of his spawning, get almost [170] miraculously through weirs and flood-gates against the stream; even through such high and swift places as is almost incredible. Next, that the trout usually spawns about October or November, but in some rivers a little sooner or later; which is the more observable, because most other fish spawn in the spring or summer, when the sun hath warmed both the earth and the water, and made [180] it fit for generation. And you are to note, that he continues many months out of season; for it may be observed of the

trout, that he is like the buck or the ox, that will not be fat in many months, though he go in the very same pastures that horses do, which will be fat in one month; and so you may observe that most other fishes recover strength, and grow sooner fat and in season, than [190 the trout doth.

* * * * *

Now you are to know that it is observed that usually the best trouts are either red or yellow; though some, as the Fordidge trout, be white and yet good; but that is not usual: and it is a note observable, that the female trout hath usually a less head and a deeper body than the male trout, and is usually the better meat. And note that a hog- [200 back and a little head, to either trout, salmon, or any other fish, is a sign that that fish is in season.

But yet you are to note that as you see some willows or palm-trees bud and blossom sooner than others do, so some trouts be, in rivers, sooner in season; and as some hollies or oaks are longer before they cast their leaves, so are some trouts, in rivers, longer before they go [210 out of season.

And you are to note that there are several kinds of trouts; but these several kinds are not considered but by very few men; for they go under the general name of trouts, just as pigeons do in most places; though it is certain there are tame and wild pigeons; and of the tame, there be helmets, and runts, and carriers, and coppers, and indeed too [220 many to name. Nay, the Royal Society have found and published lately that there be thirty and three kinds of spiders; and yet all, for aught I know, go under that one general name of spider. And it is so with many kinds of fish, and of trouts especially, which differ in their bigness, and shape, and spots, and color. The great Kentish hens may be an instance, compared to other hens. And, [230 doubtless, there is a kind of small trout, which will never thrive to be big, that breeds very many more than others do, that be of a larger size; which you may rather believe if you consider that the

little wren and titmouse will have twenty young ones at a time, when usually the noble hawk or the musical thrassel or blackbird exceed not four or five.

And now you shall see me try my [240 skill to catch a trout; and at my next walking, either this evening or to-morrow morning, I will give you direction how you yourself shall fish for him.

VENATOR. Trust me, master, I see now it is a harder matter to catch a trout than a chub; for I have put on patience and followed you these two hours, and not seen a fish stir, neither at your minnow nor your worm. [250

PISCATOR. Well, scholar, you must endure worse luck some time, or you will never make a good angler. But what say you now? There is a trout now, and a good one too, if I can but hold him; and two or three turns more will tire him. Now you see he lies still, and the sleight is to land him: reach me that landing-net. So, sir, now he is mine own. What say you now? is not this worth all my [260 labor and your patience?

VENATOR. On my word, master, this is a gallant trout: what shall we do with him?

PISCATOR. Marry, e'en eat him to supper: we'll go to my hostess, from whence we came; she told me, as I was going out of door, that my brother Peter, a good angler and a cheerful companion, had sent word that he would lodge there [270 to-night, and bring a friend with him. My hostess has two beds, and I know you and I may have the best; we'll rejoice with my brother Peter and his friend, tell tales, or sing ballads, or make a catch, or find some harmless sport to content us, and pass away a little time without offense to God or man.

VENATOR. A match, good master; let's go to that house, for the linen looks [280 white and smells of lavender, and I long to lie in a pair of sheets that smell so. Let's be going, good master, for I am hungry again with fishing.

PISCATOR. Nay, stay a little, good scholar. I caught my last trout with a worm; now I will put on a minnow, and try a quarter of an hour about yonder trees for another; and so walk towards

our lodging. Look you, scholar, there- [290 about we shall have a bite presently or not at all. Have with you, sir! o' my word I have hold of him. Oh! it is a great logger-headed chub; come, hang him upon that willow twig, and let's be going. But turn out of the way a little, good scholar, towards yonder high honeysuckle hedge; there we'll sit and sing, whilst this shower falls so gently upon the teeming earth, and gives yet [300 a sweeter smell to the lovely flowers that adorn these verdant meadows.

Look! under that broad beech-tree I sat down, when I was last this way a-fishing. And the birds in the adjoining grove seemed to have a friendly contention with an echo, whose dead voice seemed to live in a hollow tree, near to the brow of that primrose hill. There I sat viewing the silver streams glide [310 silently towards their center, the tempestuous sea; yet sometimes opposed by rugged roots and pebble-stones, which broke their waves, and turned them into foam. And sometimes I beguiled time by viewing the harmless lambs; some leaping securely in the cool shade, whilst others sported themselves in the cheerful sun; and saw others craving comfort from the swollen udders of their [320 bleating dams. As I thus sat, these and other sights had so fully possessed my soul with content, that I thought, as the poet hath happily expressed it,

"I was for that time lifted above earth,
And possessed joys not promised in my birth."

As I left this place, and entered into the next field, a second pleasure entertained me; 'twas a handsome milkmaid, that had not yet attained so much age [330 and wisdom as to load her mind with any fears of many things that will never be, as too many men too often do; but she cast away all care, and sung like a nightingale. Her voice was good, and the ditty fitted for it: it was that smooth song which was made by Kit Marlow, now at least fifty years ago; and the milkmaid's mother sung an answer to it, which was made by Sir Walter Raleigh, in his [340

younger days. They were old-fashioned poetry, but choicely good; I think much better than the strong lines that are now in fashion in this critical age. Look yonder! on my word, yonder they both be a-milking again. I will give her the chub, and persuade them to sing those two songs to us.

God speed you, good woman! I have been a-fishing, and am going to Bleak [350 Hall to my bed; and having caught more fish than will sup myself and my friend, I will bestow this upon you and your daughter, for I use to sell none.

MILK-WOMAN. Marry, God requite you, sir, and we'll eat it cheerfully; and if you come this way a-fishing two months hence, a grace of God! I'll give you a syllabub of new verjuice in a new-made hay-cock for it. And my Maudlin shall [360 sing you one of her best ballads; for she and I both love all anglers, they be such honest, civil, quiet men. In the meantime will you drink a draft of red cow's milk? You shall have it freely.

PISCATOR. No, I thank you; but, I pray, do us a courtesy that shall stand you and your daughter in nothing, and yet we will think ourselves still something in your debt; it is but to sing us a song [370 that was sung by your daughter when I last passed over this meadow, about eight or nine days since.

MILK-WOMAN. What song was it, I pray? Was it "Come, shepherds, deck your heads"? or, "As at noon *Dulcina* rested"? or, "*Phyllida* flouts me"? or, "*Chevy Chase*"? or, "*Johnny Armstrong*"? or, "*Troy Town*"?

PISCATOR. No, it is none of those; it [380 is a song that your daughter sung the first part, and you sung the answer to it.

MILK-WOMAN. Oh, I know it now. I learned it the first part in my golden age, when I was about the age of my poor daughter; and the latter part, which indeed fits me best now, but two or three years ago, when the cares of the world began to take hold of me; but you shall, God willing, hear them both, and sung [390 as well as we can, for we both love anglers. Come, Maudlin, sing the first part to the gentlemen, with a merry heart; and I'll sing the second when you have done.

THE MILKMAID'S SONG

Come, live with me, and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, or hills, or field,
Or woods, and steepy mountains yield;

Where we will sit upon the rocks,
And see the shepherds feed our flocks, [400
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses,
And then a thousand fragrant posies;
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Slippers lined choicely for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold; [410

A belt of straw and ivy-buds;
With coral clasps and amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come, live with me, and be my love.

Thy silver dishes for my meat,
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall, on an ivory table, be
Prepared each day for thee and me.

The shepherd swains shall dance and sing,
For thy delight, each May morning. [420
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my love.

VENATOR. Trust me, master, it is a choice song, and sweetly sung by honest Maudlin. I now see it was not without cause that our good Queen Elizabeth did so often wish herself a milkmaid all the month of May, because they are not troubled with fears and cares, but sing sweetly all the day, and sleep securely [430 all the night; and without doubt, honest, innocent, pretty Maudlin does so. I'll bestow Sir Thomas Overbury's milkmaid's wish upon her, "That she may die in the spring, and being dead, may have good store of flowers stuck round about her winding-sheet."

THE MILKMAID'S MOTHER'S ANSWER

If all the world and love were young,
And truth in every shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me move [440
To live with thee, and be thy love.

But time drives flocks from field to fold,
When rivers rage and rocks grow cold;
Then Philomel becometh dumb,
And age complains of care to come.

The flowers do fade, and wanton fields
To wayward winter reckoning yields.
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.

Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy beds of roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies, [451
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten;
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.

Thy belt of straw and ivy-buds,
Thy coral clasps, and amber studs,
All these in me no means can move
To come to thee, and be thy love.

What should we talk of dainties, then,
Of better meat than's fit for men?
These are but vain: that's only good [460
Which God hath blest, and sent for food.

But could youth last, and love still breed;
Had joys no date, nor age no need;
Then those delights my mind might move
To live with thee, and be thy love.

* * * * *

PISCATOR. Well sung, good woman; I thank you. I'll give you another dish of fish one of these days, and then beg another song of you. Come, scholar! let Maudlin alone; do not you offer to [470 spoil her voice. Look! yonder comes mine hostess, to call us to supper. How now? Is my brother Peter come?

HOSTESS. Yes, and a friend with him; they are both glad to hear that you are in these parts, and long to see you; and long to be at supper, for they be very hungry.

From CHAPTER VIII

If this direction to catch a pike do you no good, yet I am certain this direction how to roast him when he is caught is choicely good, for I have tried it; and it is somewhat the better for not being common. But with my direction you must take this caution, that your pike must not be a small one; that is, it must be more than half a yard, and should be bigger. [10]

First open your pike at the gills, and if need be cut also a little slit towards the belly. Out of these take his guts, and keep his liver, which you are to shred very small with thyme, sweet marjoram, and winter-savory. To these put some pickled oysters, and some anchovies, two or three, (both these last whole, for the anchovies will melt, and the oysters should not). To these you must add also a pound [20] of sweet butter, which you are to mix with the herbs that are shred; and let them all be well salted (if the pike be more than a yard long, then you may put into these herbs more than a pound; or if he be less, then less butter will suffice). These being thus mixed, with a blade or two of mace, must be put into the pike's belly, and then his belly sewed up. Then you are to thrust the spit through his mouth out at his [30] tail; and then take four, or five, or six split sticks or very thin laths, and a convenient quantity of tape or fletting. These laths are to be tied round about the pike's body, from his head to his tail, and the tape tied somewhat thick to prevent his breaking or falling off from the spit. Let him be roasted very leisurely, and often basted with claret wine and anchovies and butter mixed together, and [40] also with what moisture falls from him into the pan. When you have roasted him sufficiently you are to hold under him, when you unwind or cut the tape that ties him, such a dish as you purpose to eat him out of; and let him fall into it with the sauce that is roasted in his belly; and by this means the pike will be kept unbroken and complete. Then to the sauce which was within him, and also [50] that sauce in the pan, you are to add a fit quantity of the best butter, and to

squeeze the juice of three or four oranges. Lastly, you may either put into the pike with the oysters two cloves of garlic, and take it whole out when the pike is cut off the spit; or, to give the sauce a *haut gout*, let the dish into which you let the pike fall be rubbed with it; the using or not using of this garlic is left to your discretion. [60]

JEREMY TAYLOR (1613-1667)

From HOLY DYING

It is a mighty change that is made by the death of every person, and it is visible to us who are alive. Reckon but from the sprightfulness of youth and the fair cheeks and full eyes of childhood, from the vigorousness and strong flexure of the joints of five-and-twenty, to the hollowness and dead paleness, to the loathsomeness and horror of a three days' burial, and we shall perceive the [10] distance to be very great and very strange. But so have I seen a rose newly springing from the clefts of its hood, and at first it was fair as the morning, and full with the dew of heaven as a lamb's fleece; but when a ruder breath had forced open its virgin modesty and dismantled its too youthful and unripe retirements, it began to put on darkness and to decline to softness and the symptoms of a sickly [20] age: it bowed the head and broke its stalk, and at night, having lost some of its leaves and all its beauty, it fell into the portion of weeds and outworn faces. The same is the portion of every man and every woman: the heritage of worms and serpents, rottenness and cold dishonor, and our beauty so changed that our acquaintance quickly know us not; and that change mingled with so much [30] horror, or else meets so with our fears and weak discourings, that they who six hours ago tended upon us, either with charitable or ambitious services, cannot without regret stay in the room alone where the body lies stripped of its life and honor. I have read of a fair young German gentleman, who, living, often refused to be pictured, but put off the

importunity of his friends' desire by [40 giving way that, after a few days' burial, they might send a painter to his vault, and, if they saw cause for it, draw the image of his death unto the life. They did so, and found his face half eaten, and his midriff and backbone full of serpents; and so he stands pictured among his armed ancestors. So does the fairest beauty change, and it will be as bad for you and me; and then what servants [50 shall we have to wait upon us in the grave? what friends to visit us? what officious people to cleanse away the moist and unwholesome cloud reflected upon our faces from the sides of the weeping vaults, which are the longest weepers for our funeral?

This discourse will be useful if we consider and practise by the following rules and considerations respectively. [60

1. All the rich and all the covetous men in the world will perceive, and all the world will perceive for them, that it is but an ill recompense for all their cares that by this time all that shall be left will be this, that the neighbors shall say, "He died a rich man;" and yet his wealth will not profit him in the grave, but hugely swell the sad accounts of doomsday. And he that kills the Lord's [70 people with unjust or ambitious wars, for an unrewarding interest shall have this character, that he threw away all the days of his life that one year might be reckoned with his name, and computed by his reign or consulship; and many men by great labors and affronts, many indignities and crimes, labor only for a pompous epitaph and a loud title upon their marble; whilst those into whose [80 possessions their heirs or kindred are entered are forgotten, and lie unregarded as their ashes, and without concernment or relation, as the turf upon the face of their grave. A man may read a sermon, the best and most passionate that ever man preached, if he shall but enter into the sepulchres of kings. In the same Escorial where the Spanish princes live in greatness and power, and decree [90 war or peace, they have wisely placed a cemetery, where their ashes and their glory shall sleep till time shall be no

more; and where our kings have been crowned their ancestors lie interred, and they must walk over their grandsire's head to take his crown. There is an acre sown with royal seed, the copy of the greatest change, from rich to naked, from ceiled roofs to arched coffins, from [100 living like gods to die like men. There is enough to cool the flames of lust, to abate the heights of pride, to appease the itch of covetous desires, to sully and dash out the dissembling colors of a lustful, artificial, and imaginary beauty. There the warlike and the peaceful, the fortunate and the miserable, the beloved and the despised princes mingle their dust, and pay down their symbol of mortality, [110 and tell all the world that when we die our ashes shall be equal to kings', and our accounts easier, and our pains or our crowns shall be less. To my apprehension, it is a sad record which is left by Athenaeus concerning Ninus, the great Assyrian monarch, whose life and death are summed up in these words: "Ninus the Assyrian had an ocean of gold and other riches more than the sand in [120 the Caspian Sea; he never saw the stars, and perhaps he never desired it; he never stirred up the holy fire among the Magi, nor touched his god with the sacred rod according to the laws; he never offered sacrifice, nor worshipped the deity, nor administered justice, nor spake to his people, nor numbered them; but he was most valiant to eat and drink, and having mingled his wines, he threw the rest [130 upon the stones. This man is dead; behold his sepulchre; and now hear where Ninus is. Sometimes I was Ninus, and drew the breath of a living man, but now am nothing but clay. I have nothing but what I did eat, and what I served to myself in lust; that was and is all my portion. The wealth with which I was esteemed blessed, my enemies, meeting together, shall bear away, as the mad [140 Thyades carry a raw goat. I am gone to hell; and when I went thither I neither carried gold, nor horse, nor silver chariot. I that wore a mitre am now a little heap of dust." I know not anything that can better represent the evil condition of a wicked man or a changing greatness.

From the greatest secular dignity to dust and ashes his nature bears him; and from thence to hell his sins carry him, [150 and there he shall be for ever under the dominion of chains and devils, wrath and an intolerable calamity. This is the reward of an unsanctified condition, and a greatness ill-gotten or ill-administered.

2. Let no man extend his thoughts, or let his hopes wander towards future and far-distant events and accidental contingencies. This day is mine and yours, but ye know not what shall be on [160 the morrow; and every morning creeps out of a dark cloud, leaving behind it an ignorance and silence deep as midnight and undiscerned as are the phantasms that make a chrisom-child to smile; so that we cannot discern what comes hereafter, unless we had a light from heaven brighter than the vision of an angel, even the spirit of prophecy. Without revelation we cannot tell whether we [170 shall eat tomorrow, or whether a squinancy shall choke us; and it is written in the unrevealed folds of divine predestination that many who are this day alive shall tomorrow be laid upon the cold earth, and the women shall weep over their shroud, and dress them for their funeral. St. James, in his Epistle, notes the folly of some men his contemporaries, who were so impatient of the event [180 of tomorrow, or the accidents of next year, or the good or evils of old age, that they would consult astrologers and witches, oracles and devils, what should befall them the next calends—what should be the event of such a voyage—what God had written in his book concerning the success of battles, the election of emperors, the heirs of families, the price of merchandise, the return of the Tyrian [190 fleet, the rate of Sidonian carpets; and as they were taught by the crafty and lying demons, so they would expect the issue; and oftentimes by disposing their affairs in order towards such events, really did produce some little accidents according to their expectation, and that made them trust the oracles in greater things, and in all. Against this he opposes his counsel that we should not search [200 after forbidden records, much less by

uncertain significations; for whatsoever is disposed to happen by the order of natural causes or civil counsels may be rescinded by a peculiar decree of Providence, or be prevented by the death of the interested persons; who, while their hopes are full, and their causes conjoined, and the work brought forward, and the sickle put into the harvest, [210 and the first-fruits offered and ready to be eaten, even then, if they put forth their hand to an event that stands but at the door, at that door their body may be carried forth to burial before the expedition shall enter into fruition. When Richilda, the widow of Albert, earl of Ebersberg, had feasted the emperor Henry III, and petitioned in behalf of her nephew Welfo for some lands formerly possessed by the earl her husband, just as the emperor held out his hand to signify his consent, the chamber floor suddenly fell under them, and Richilda, falling upon the edge of a bathing-vessel, was bruised to death, and stayed not to see her nephew sleep in those lands which the emperor was reaching forth to her, and placed at the door of restitution.

3. As our hopes must be confined, so [230 must our designs: let us not project long designs, crafty plots, and diggings so deep that the intrigues of a design shall never be unfolded till our grandchildren have forgotten our virtues or our vices. The work of our soul is cut short, facile, sweet, and plain, and fitted to the small portions of our shorter life; and as we must not trouble our inquiry, so neither must we intricate our labor and pur- [240 poses with what we shall never enjoy. This rule does not forbid us to plant orchards, which shall feed our nephews with their fruit, for by such provisions they do something towards an imaginary immortality, and do charity to their relatives; but such projects are reproved which discompose our present duty by long and future designs: such which, by casting our labors to events at distance, make us less to [250 remember our death standing at the door. It is fit for a man to work for his day's wages, or to contrive for the hire of a week, or to lay a train to make provisions for such a time as is within our

eye, and in our duty, and within the usual periods of man's life, for whatsoever is made necessary is also made prudent; but while we plot and busy ourselves in the toils of an ambitious war, [260 or the levies of a great estate, night enters in upon us, and tells all the world how like fools we lived and how deceived and miserably we died. Seneca tells of Senecio Cornelius, a man crafty in getting, and tenacious in holding, a great estate, and one who was as diligent in the care of his body as of his money, curious of his health as of his possessions, that he all day long attended upon his sick and [270 dying friend; but when he went away was quickly comforted, supped merrily, went to bed cheerfully, and on a sudden being surprised by a squinancy, scarce drew his breath until the morning, but by that time died, being snatched from the torrent of his fortune, and the swelling tide of wealth, and a likely hope bigger than the necessities of ten men. This accident was much noted then in [280 Rome, because it happened in so great a fortune, and in the midst of wealthy designs; and presently it made wise men to consider how imprudent a person he is who disposes of ten years to come when he is not lord of tomorrow.

* * * * *

5. Since we stay not here, being people but of a day's abode, and our age is like that of a fly, and contemporary with a gourd, we must look somewhere else [290 for an abiding city, a place in another country to fix our house in, whose walls and foundation is God, where we must find rest, or else be restless forever. For whatsoever ease we can have or fancy here is shortly to be changed into sadness or tediousness; it goes away too soon like the periods of our life, or stays too long like the sorrows of a sinner; its own weariness, or a contrary disturbance, [300 is its load; or it is eased by its revolution into vanity and forgetfulness; and where either there is sorrow or an end of joy, there can be no true felicity; which, because it must be had by some instrument, and in some period of our duration, we must carry up our affections to the

mansion prepared for us above, where eternity is the measure, felicity is the state, angels are the company, the Lamb is [310 the light, and God is the portion and inheritance.

JOHN MILTON (1608-1674)

L'ALLEGRO

Hence, loathèd Melancholy,
Of Cerberus and blackest Midnight born
In Stygian cave forlorn,
'Mongst horrid shapes and shrieks and
sights unholy!
Find out some uncouth cell, 5
Where brooding darkness spreads his
jealous wings,
And the night-raven sings;
There under ebon shades and low-
browed rocks,
As ragged as thy locks,
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell. 10
But come, thou Goddess fair and free,
In heaven yclept¹ Euphrosyne,
And by men heart-easing Mirth;
Whom lovely Venus, at a birth,
With two sister Graces more, 15
To ivy-crownèd Bacchus bore;
Or whether (as some sager² sing)
The frolic wind that breathes the spring,
Zephyr, with Aurora playing,
As he met her once a-Maying, 20
There on beds of violets blue
And fresh-blown roses washed in dew,
Filled her with thee, a daughter fair,
So buxom,³ blithe, and debonair.
Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee 25
Jest, and youthful Jollity,
Quips and cranks and wanton wiles,
Nods and becks and wreathèd smiles,
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,
And love to live in dimple sleek; 30
Sport that wrinkled Care derides,
And Laughter holding both his sides.
Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe;
And in thy right hand lead with thee 35
The mountain nymph, sweet Liberty;
And if I give thee honor due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew,

¹ called.

² more wisely.

³ sprightly.

<p>To live with her, and live with thee, In unprovèd pleasures free: 40 To hear the lark begin his flight, And singing, startle the dull night, From his watch-tower in the skies, Till the dappled dawn doth rise; Then to come in spite of sorrow, 45 And at my window bid good-morrow, Through the sweet-briar or the vine, Or the twisted eglantine; While the cock, with lively din, Scatters the rear of darkness thin, 50 And to the stack, or the barn-door, Stoutly struts his dames before: Oft listening how the hounds and horn Cheerly rouse the slumbering morn, From the side of some hoar hill, 55 Through the high wood echoing shrill: Sometime walking, not unseen, By hedge-row elms, on hillocks green, Right against the eastern gate Where the great sun begins his state, 60 Robed in flames and amber light, The clouds in thousand liveries dight; While the ploughman, near at hand, Whistles o'er the furrowed land, And the milkmaid singeth blithe, 65 And the mower whets his scythe, And every shepherd tells his tale Under the hawthorn in the dale. Straight mine eye hath caught new pleas- ures</p> <p>Whilst the landskip¹ round it measures: 70 Russet lawns and fallows grey, Where the nibbling flocks do stray; Mountains on whose barren breast The laboring clouds do often rest; Meadows trim with daisies pied, 75 Shallow brooks and rivers wide; Towers and battlements it sees Bosomed high in tufted trees, Where perhaps some beauty lies, The cynosure² of neighboring eyes. 80 Hard by, a cottage chimney smokes From betwixt two agèd oaks, Where Corydon and Thyrsis met Are at their savory dinner set Of herbs and other country messes, 85 Which the neat-handed Phillis dresses; And then in haste her bower she leaves, With Thestylis to bind the sheaves; Or, if the earlier season lead, To the tanned haycock in the mead. 90</p>	<p>Sometimes, with secure delight, The upland hamlets will invite, When the merry bells ring round, And the jocund rebecks³ sound 95 To many a youth and many a maid Dancing in the chequered shade; And young and old come forth to play On a sunshine holiday, Till the livelong daylight fail: Then to the spicy nut-brown ale, 100 With stories told of many a feat, How faery Mab the junkets eat. She was pinched and pulled, she said; And he, by friar's lantern⁴ led, Tells how the drudging goblin sweat 105 To earn his cream-bowl duly set, When in one night, ere glimpse of morn, His shadowy flail hath threshed the corn That ten day-laborers could not end; Then lies him down, the lubber⁵ fiend, 110 And, stretched out all the chimney's length, Basks at the fire his hairy strength, And crop-full out of doors he flings, Ere the first cock his matin rings. Thus done the tales, to bed they creep, 115 By whispering winds soon lulled asleep. Towered cities please us then, And the busy hum of men, Where throngs of knights and barons bold, In weeds of peace high triumphs hold, 120 With store of ladies, whose bright eyes Rain influence, and judge the prize Of wit or arms, while both contend To win her grace whom all commend. There let Hymen oft appear 125 In saffron robe, with taper clear, And pomp and feast and revelry, With mask and antique pageantry; Such sights as youthful poets dream On summer eves by haunted stream. 130 Then to the well-trod stage anon, If Jonson's learnèd sock be on, Or sweetest Shakespeare, Fancy's child, Warble his native wood-notes wild. And ever, against eating cares, 135 Lap me in soft Lydian airs, Married to immortal verse, Such as the meeting soul may pierce, In notes with many a winding bout⁶ Of linkèd sweetness long drawn out, 140 With wanton heed and giddy cunning, The melting voice through mazes running,</p>
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¹ landscape.² center of observation.³ fiddles.⁴ will o' the wisp.⁵ awkward.⁶ turn.

Untwisting all the chains that tie
 The hidden soul of harmony;
 That Orpheus' self may heave his head 145
 From golden slumber on a bed
 Of heaped Elysian flowers, and hear
 Such strains as would have won the ear
 Of Pluto to have quite set free
 His half-regained Eurydice. 150
 These delights if thou canst give,
 Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

IL PENSEROSO

Hence, vain deluding Joys,
 The brood of Folly without father bred!
 How little you bested,¹
 Or fill the fixèd mind with all your toys!
 Dwell in some idle brain, 5
 And fancies fond² with gaudy shapes
 possess,
 As thick and numberless
 As the gay motes that people the sun-
 beams,
 Or likest hovering dreams,
 The fickle pensioners of Morpheus'
 train. 10
 But hail, thou Goddess sage and holy,
 Hail, divinest Melancholy!
 Whose saintly visage is too bright
 To hit the sense of human sight,
 And therefore to our weaker view 15
 O'erlaid with black, staid Wisdom's hue;
 Black, but such as in esteem
 Prince Memnon's sister might beseem,
 Or that starred Ethiop queen that strove
 To set her beauty's praise above 20
 The sea nymphs', and their powers of-
 fended.
 Yet thou art higher far descended:
 Thee bright-haired Vesta long of yore
 To solitary Saturn bore;
 His daughter she (in Saturn's reign 25
 Such mixture was not held a stain).
 Oft in glimmering bowers and glades
 He met her, and in secret shades
 Of woody Ida's inmost grove,
 Whilst yet there was no fear of Jove. 30
 Come, pensive Nun, devout and pure,
 Sober, steadfast, and demure,
 All in a robe of darkest grain,
 Flowing with majestic train,

¹ profit.² foolish.

And sable stole of cypress lawn 35
 Over thy decent shoulders drawn.
 Come, but keep thy wonted state,
 With even step, and musing gait,
 And looks commercing with the skies,
 Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes: 40
 There, held in holy passion still,
 Forget thyself to marble, till
 With a sad leaden downward cast
 Thou fix them on the earth as fast.
 And join with thee calm Peace, and Quiet,
 Spare Fast, that oft with gods doth diet, 46
 And hears the Muses in a ring
 Aye round about Jove's altar sing;
 And add to these retirèd Leisure,
 That in trim gardens takes his pleasure; 50
 But first, and chiefest, with thee bring
 Him that yon soars on golden wing,
 Guiding the fiery-wheèled throne,
 The cherub Contemplation;
 And the mute Silence hist along, 55
 'Less Philomel³ will deign a song,
 In her sweetest, saddest plight,
 Smoothing the rugged brow of Night,
 While Cynthia checks her dragon yoke
 Gently o'er the accustomed oak. 60
 Sweet bird, that shunn'st the noise of
 folly,
 Most musical, most melancholy!
 Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among,
 I woo, to hear thy even-song;
 And, missing thee, I walk unseen 65
 On the dry smooth-shaven green,
 To behold the wandering moon
 Riding near her highest noon,
 Like one that had been led astray
 Through the heaven's wide pathless way,
 And oft, as if her head she bowed, 71
 Stooping through a fleecy cloud.
 Oft, on a plat of rising ground,
 I hear the far-off curfew sound
 Over some wide-watered shore, 75
 Swinging slow with sullen roar;
 Or if the air will not permit,
 Some still removèd place will fit,
 Where glowing embers through the room
 Teach light to counterfeit a gloom, 80
 Far from all resort of mirth,
 Save the cricket on the hearth,
 Or the bellman's drowsy charm
 To bless the doors from nightly harm.
 Or let my lamp, at midnight hour, 85
 Be seen in some high lonely tower

³ the nightingale.

Where I may oft outwatch the Bear
 With thrice-great Hermes, or unsphere
 The spirit of Plato, to unfold
 What worlds or what vast regions hold 90
 The immortal mind that hath forsook
 Her mansion in this fleshly nook;
 And of those demons that are found
 In fire, air, flood, or underground,
 Whose power hath a true consent, 95
 With planet or with element.
 Sometime let gorgeous Tragedy
 In scepter'd pall come sweeping by,
 Presenting Thebes, or Pelops' line,
 Or the tale of Troy divine, 100
 Or what (though rare) of later age
 Ennobled hath the buskin'd stage.
 But, O sad Virgin! that thy power
 Might raise Musæus from his bower;
 Or bid the soul of Orpheus sing 105
 Such notes as, warbled to the string,
 Drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek,
 And made Hell grant what love did seek;
 Or call up him that left half-told
 The story of Cambuscan bold, 110
 Of Camball, and of Algarsife,
 And who had Canace to wife
 That owned the virtuous¹ ring and glass,
 And of the wondrous horse of brass,
 On which the Tartar king did ride; 115
 And if aught else great bards beside
 In sage and solemn tunes have sung,
 Of tourneys, and of trophies hung,
 Of forests, and enchantments drear,
 Where more is meant than meets the
 ear. 120
 Thus, Night, oft see me in thy pale career,
 Till civil-suited Morn appear,
 Not tricked² and frownc'd as she was wont
 With the Attic boy to hunt,
 But kerchieft in a comely cloud, 125
 While rocking winds are piping loud;
 Or ushered with a shower still,
 When the gust hath blown his fill,
 Ending on the rustling leaves,
 With minute-drops from off the eaves. 130
 And when the sun begins to fling
 His flaring beams, me, Goddess, bring
 To arch'd walks of twilight groves,
 And shadows brown, that Sylvan loves,
 Of pine, or monumental oak, 135
 Where the rude axe with heav'd stroke
 Was never heard the nymphs to daunt,
 Or fright them from their hallowed haunt.

¹ magical.² adorned.

There in close covert by some brook,
 Where no profaner eye may look, 140
 Hide me from day's garish eye,
 While the bee, with honeyed thigh,
 That at her flowery work doth sing,
 And the waters murmuring,
 With such consort as they keep, 145
 Entice the dewy-feathered Sleep;
 And let some strange mysterious dream
 Wave at his wings in airy stream
 Of lively portraiture displayed,
 Softly on my eyelids laid; 150
 And, as I wake, sweet music breathe
 Above, about, or underneath,
 Sent by some spirit to mortals good,
 Or the unseen Genius of the wood.
 But let my due feet never fail 155
 To walk the studious cloister's pale,³
 And love the high embow'd roof,
 With antique pillars massy proof,
 And storied windows richly dight,⁴
 Casting a dim religious light. 160
 There let the pealing organ blow
 To the full-voiced quire below
 In service high and anthems clear
 As may with sweetness, through mine ear,
 Dissolve me into ecstasies, 165
 And bring all Heaven before mine eyes.
 And may at last my weary age
 Find out the peaceful hermitage,
 The hairy gown and mossy cell,
 Where I may sit and rightly spell⁵ 170
 Of every star that heaven doth shew,
 And every herb that sips the dew,
 Till old experience do attain
 To something like prophetic strain.
 These pleasures, Melancholy, give, 175
 And I with thee will choose to live.

LYCIDAS

In this Monody the Author bewails a learned Friend, unfortunately drowned in his passage from Chester on the Irish Seas, 1637; and by occasion foretells the ruin of our corrupted Clergy, then in their height.

Yet once more, O ye laurels, and once more,
 Ye myrtles brown, with ivy never sere,
 I come to pluck your berries harsh and
 crude,
 And with forced fingers rude

³ enclosure.⁴ ornamented.⁵ reason, study.

Shatter your leaves before the mellowing
year. 5

Bitter constraint and sad occasion dear
Compels me to disturb your season due;
For Lycidas is dead, dead ere his prime,
Young Lycidas, and hath not left his
peer.

Who would not sing for Lycidas? he
knew 10

Himself to sing, and build the lofty rhyme.
He must not float upon his watery bier
Unwept, and welter¹ to the parching wind,
Without the meed² of some melodious tear.

Begin then, Sisters of the sacred well 15
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth
spring;

Begin, and somewhat loudly sweep the
string.

Hence with denial vain and coy excuse;
So may some gentle Muse
With lucky words favor my destined urn,
And as he passes turn, 21
And bid fair peace be to my sable shroud.

For we were nursed upon the self-same
hill,

Fed the same flock, by fountain, shade,
and rill;

Together both, ere the high lawns ap-
peared 25

Under the opening eyelids of the morn,
We drove a-field, and both together heard
What time the grey-fly winds her sultry
horn,

Battening³ our flocks with the fresh dews
of night,

Oft till the star that rose at evening,
bright, 30

Toward heaven's descent had sloped his
westerling wheel.

Meanwhile the rural ditties were not mute,
Tempered to the oaten flute;

Rough Satyrs danced, and Fauns with
cloven heel

From the glad sound would not be absent
long; 35

And old Damœtas loved to hear our
song.

But oh! the heavy change, now thou
art gone,

Now thou art gone, and never must re-
turn!

Thee, Shepherd, thee the woods and desert
caves,

With wild thyme and the gadding vine
o'ergrown, 40

And all their echoes, mourn.

The willows and the hazel copses green
Shall now no more be seen,
Fanning their joyous leaves to thy soft
lays.

As killing as the canker to the rose, 45
Or taint-worm to the weanling⁴ herds that

graze,
Or frost to flowers, that their gay ward-
robe wear,

When first the white-thorn blows;
Such, Lycidas, thy loss to shepherd's ear.

Where were ye, Nymphs, when the re-
morseless deep 50

Closed o'er the head of your loved Lyci-
das?

For neither were ye playing on the steep
Where your old bards, the famous Druids,
lie,

Nor on the shaggy top of Mona high,
Nor yet where Deva spreads her wizard
stream. 55

Ay me, I fondly⁵ dream!

Had ye been there—for what could that
have done?

What could the Muse herself that Orpheus
bore,

The Muse herself, for her enchanting son,
Whom universal nature did lament, 60
When by the rout that made the hideous
roar

His gory visage down the stream was sent,
Down the swift Hebrus to the Lesbian
shore?

Alas! what boots it with uncessant care
To tend the homely, slighted, shepherd's
trade, 65

And strictly meditate the thankless Muse?

Were it not better done, as others use,
To sport with Amaryllis in the shade,

Or with the tangles of Neæra's hair?
Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth

raise 70
(That last infirmity of noble mind)

To scorn delights and live laborious days;
But the fair guerdon⁶ when we hope to

find,
And think to burst out into sudden
blaze,

Comes the blind Fury with the abhorred
shears, 75

¹ toss.

² tribute.

³ fattening.

⁴ young, weaned.

⁵ foolishly.

⁶ reward.

And slits the thin-spun life. "But not
the praise,"

Phœbus replied, and touched my trem-
bling ears:

"Fame is no plant that grows on mortal
soil,

Nor in the glistening foil

Set off to the world, nor in broad rumor
lies; 80

But lives and spreads aloft by those pure
eyes

And perfect witness of all-judging Jove;

As he pronounces lastly on each deed,

Of so much fame in heaven expect thy
meed."

O fountain Arethuse, and thou honored
flood, 85

Smooth-sliding Mincius, crowned with
vocal reeds,

That strain I heard was of a higher mood:

But now my oat proceeds,

And listens to the herald of the sea,

That came in Neptune's plea. 90

He asked the waves, and asked the felon¹
winds,

What hard mishap hath doomed this
gentle swain?

And questioned every gust of rugged
wings

That blows from off each beakèd promon-
tory:

They know not of his story; 95

And sage Hippotades their answer brings,

That not a blast was from his dungeon
strayed;

The air was calm, and on the level brine

Sleek Panope with all her sisters played.

It was that fatal and perfidious bark, 100

Built in the eclipse, and rigged with curses
dark,

That sunk so low that sacred head of
thine.

Next Camus, reverend sire, went foot-
ing slow,

His mantle hairy, and his bonnet sedge,

Inwrought with figures dim, and on the
edge 105

Like to that sanguine flower inscribed with
woe.

"Ah! who hath reft," quoth he, "my
dearest pledge?"²

Last came, and last did go,

The pilot of the Galilean lake;

¹ criminal.

² child.

Two massy keys he bore of metals twain 110
(The golden opes, the iron shuts amain).
He shook his mitred locks, and stern be-
spoke:

"How well could I have spared for thee,
young swain,

Enow of such as, for their bellies' sake
Creep, and intrude, and climb into the

fold! 115

Of other care they little reckoning make
Than how to scramble at the shearers'
feast

And shove away the worthy bidden guest;
Blind mouths! that scarce themselves

know how to hold

A sheep-hook, or have learnt aught else
the least 120

That to the faithful herdman's art be-
longs!

What recks it them? What need they?

They are sped;³

And when they list, their lean and flashy
songs

Grate on their scrannel⁴ pipes of wretched
straw;

The hungry sheep look up, and are not
fed, 125

But swoln with wind and the rank mist
they draw,

Rot inwardly, and foul contagion spread;
Besides what the grim wolf with privy

paw

Daily devours apace, and nothing said.

But that two-handed engine at the door
Stands ready to smite once, and smite no

more." 131

Return, Alpheus; the dread voice is
past

That shrunk thy streams; return, Sicilian
Muse,

And call the vales, and bid them hither
cast

Their bells and flowerets of a thousand
hues. 135

Ye valleys low, where the mild whispers
use⁵

Of shades and wanton winds and gushing
brooks,

On whose fresh lap the swart star⁶ sparsely
looks,

Throw hither all your quaint enamelled
eyes,

³ accomplish their end.

⁵ dwell.

⁴ harsh, discordant.

⁶ the Dog-star, Sirius.

That on the green turf suck the honeyed
showers, 140
And purple all the ground with vernal
flowers.
Bring the rathe¹ primrose that forsaken
dies,
The tufted crow-toe, and pale jessamine,
The white pink, and the pansy freaked
with jet,
The glowing violet, 145
The musk-rose, and the well-attired wood-
bine,
With cowslips wan that hang the pensive
head,
And every flower that sad embroidery
wears;
Bid amaranthus all his beauty shed,
And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,
To strew the laureate hearse where
Lycid lies. 151
For so, to interpose a little ease,
Let our frail thoughts dally with false sur-
mise:
Ay me! whilst thee the shores and sound-
ing seas
Wash far away, where'er thy bones are
hurled; 155
Whether beyond the stormy Hebrides,
Where thou perhaps under the whelming
tide
Visit'st the bottom of the monstrous
world;
Or whether thou, to our moist² vows
denied,
Sleep'st by the fable of Bellerus old, 160
Where the great vision of the guarded
mount
Looks toward Namancos and Bayona's
hold.
Look homeward, Angel, now, and melt
with ruth;³
And O ye dolphins, waft the hapless youth.
Weep no more, woeful shepherds, weep
no more, 165
For Lycidas, your sorrow, is not dead,
Sunk though he be beneath the watery
floor;
So sinks the day-star in the ocean bed,
And yet anon repairs his drooping head,
And tricks⁴ his beams, and with new-
spangled ore 170
Flames in the forehead of the morning sky:
So Lycidas sunk low, but mounted high,

Through the dear might of Him that
walked the waves,
Where, other groves and other streams
along, 174
With nectar pure his oozy locks he laves,
And hears the unexpressive⁵ nuptial song,
In the blest kingdoms meek of joy and
love.
There entertain him all the saints above,
In solemn troops and sweet societies, 179
That sing, and singing in their glory move,
And wipe the tears for ever from his eyes.
Now, Lycidas, the shepherds weep no
more;
Henceforth thou art the Genius⁶ of the
shore,
In thy large recompense, and shalt be good
To all that wander in that perilous flood.
Thus sang the uncouth⁷ swain to the
oaks and rills, 186
While the still morn went out with sandals
grey;
He touched the tender stops of various
quills,⁸
With eager thought warbling his Doric
lay:
And now the sun had stretched out all the
hills, 190
And now was dropped into the western bay.
At last he rose, and twitched his mantle
blue:
To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures
new.

SONNETS

ON HIS HAVING ARRIVED AT THE
AGE OF TWENTY-THREE

How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of
youth,
Stolen on his wing my three and twentieth
year!
My hasting days fly on with full career,
But my late spring no bud or blossom
shew'th.
Perhaps my semblance might deceive the
truth 5
That I to manhood am arrived so near;
And inward ripeness doth much less ap-
pear,
That some more timely-happy spirits
endu'th.

¹ early.² tearful.³ pity.⁴ adorns.⁵ inexpressible.⁶ guardian angel.⁷ unknown.⁸ reeds.

Yet be it less or more, or soon or slow,
 It shall be still in strictest measure
 even 10
 To that same lot, however mean or high,
 Toward which Time leads me, and the will
 of Heaven;
 All is, if I have grace to use it so,
 As ever in my great Task-Master's eye.

ON SHAKESPEARE

What needs my Shakespeare for his
 honored bones
 The labor of an age in pilèd stones?
 Or that his hallowed relics should be hid
 Under a star-ypointing pyramid?
 Dear son of memory, great heir of fame, 5
 What need'st thou such weak witness of
 thy name?
 Thou in our wonder and astonishment
 Hast built thyself a livelong monument.
 For whilst, to the shame of slow-endeavor-
 ing art,
 Thy easy numbers flow, and that each
 heart 10
 Hath from the leaves of thy unvalued¹
 book
 Those Delphic lines with deep impression
 took,
 Then thou, our fancy of itself bereaving,
 Dost make us marble with too much
 conceiving,
 And so sepulchred in such pomp dost lie 15
 That kings for such a tomb would wish to
 die.

TO THE LORD GENERAL CROM- WELL

MAY, 1652

ON THE PROPOSALS OF CERTAIN MINISTERS
 AT THE COMMITTEE FOR PROPAGATION
 OF THE GOSPEL

Cromwell, our chief of men, who through a
 cloud
 Not of war only, but detractions rude,
 Guided by faith and matchless fortitude,
 To peace and truth thy glorious way
 hast ploughed,

¹ invaluable.

And on the neck of crownèd Fortune
 proud 5
 Hast reared God's trophies, and his work
 pursued,
 While Darwen stream, with blood of Scots
 imbrued,
 And Dunbar field, resounds thy praises
 loud,
 And Worcester's laureate wreath: yet
 much remains
 To conquer still; Peace hath her vic-
 tories 10
 No less renowned than War: new foes
 arise,
 Threatening to bind our souls with
 secular chains.
 Help us to save free conscience from the
 paw
 Of hireling wolves, whose gospel is their
 maw.

ON HIS BLINDNESS

When I consider how my light is spent
 Ere half my days, in this dark world and
 wide, 1
 And that one talent which is death to
 hide
 Lodged with me useless, though my soul
 more bent 4
 To serve therewith my Maker, and present
 My true account, lest he returning chide;
 "Doth God exact day-labor, light de-
 nied?"
 I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent
 That murmur, soon replies, "God doth
 not need
 Either man's work or his own gifts.
 Who best 10
 Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best.
 His state
 Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,
 And post o'er land and ocean without
 rest;
 They also serve who only stand and
 wait."

ON THE LATE MASSACRE IN PIED- MONT

Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints,
 whose bones
 Lie scattered on the Alpine mountains
 cold;

Even them who kept thy truth so pure of
old,
When all our fathers worshipped stocks
and stones,
Forget not: in thy book record their
groans 5
Who were thy sheep, and in their ancient
fold
Slain by the bloody Piedmontese, that
rolled
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their
moans
The vales redoubled to the hills, and they
To heaven. Their martyred blood and
ashes sow 10
O'er all the Italian fields, where still doth
sway
The triple tyrant; that from these may
grow
A hundredfold, who, having learnt thy
way,
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

TO CYRIACK SKINNER

Cyriack, this three years' day these eyes,
though clear
To outward view, of blemish or of spot,
Bereft of light, their seeing have forgot;
Nor to their idle orbs doth sight appear
Of sun or moon or star throughout the
year, 5
Or man or woman. Yet I argue not
Against Heaven's hand or will, nor bate a
jot
Of heart or hope, but still bear up and
steer
Right onward. What supports me, dost
thou ask?
The conscience, friend, to have lost them
overplied 10
In liberty's defence, my noble task,
Of which all Europe talks from side to
side.
This thought might lead me through the
world's vain mask
Content, though blind, had I no better
guide.

ON HIS DECEASED WIFE

Methought I saw my late espousèd saint
Brought to me like Alcestis from the grave,

Whom Jove's great son to her glad hus-
band gave,
Rescued from Death by force, though pale
and faint.
Mine, as whom washed from spot of child-
bed taint 5
Purification in the old law did save,
And such as yet once more I trust to have
Full sight of her in Heaven without re-
straint,
Came vested all in white, pure as her mind.
Her face was veiled; yet to my fancied
sight 10
Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person
shined
So clear as in no face with more delight.
But, oh! as to embrace me she inclined,
I waked, she fled, and day brought back
my night.

PARADISE LOST

BOOK I

THE ARGUMENT

This First Book proposes, first in brief,
the whole subject,—Man's disobedience,
and the loss thereupon of Paradise,
wherein he was placed: then touches
the prime cause of his fall,—the Ser-
pent, or rather Satan in the Serpent;
who, revolting from God, and drawing
to his side many legions of Angels, was,
by the command of God, driven out of
Heaven, with all his crew, into the great
Deep. Which action passed over, the
Poem hastens into the midst of things;
presenting Satan, with his Angels, now
fallen into Hell—described here, not in
the Center (for Heaven and earth may
be supposed as yet not made, certainly
not yet accursed), but in a place of utter
darkness, fittest called Chaos. Here
Satan with his Angels, lying on the burn-
ing lake, thunderstruck and astonished,
after a certain space recovers, as from
confusion; calls up him who, next in
order and dignity, lay by him: they
confer of their miserable fall. Satan
awakens all his legions, who lay till then
in the same manner confounded. They
rise; their numbers; array of battle; their

chief leaders named, according to the idols known afterwards in Canaan and the countries adjoining. To these Satan directs his speech; comforts them with hope yet of regaining Heaven; but tells them lastly of a new world and new kind of creature to be created, according to an ancient prophecy, or report, in Heaven—for that Angels were long before this visible creation was the opinion of many ancient Fathers. To find out the truth of this prophecy, and what to determine thereon, he refers to a full council. What his associates thence attempt. Pandemonium, the palace of Satan, rises, suddenly built out of the Deep: the infernal Peers there sit in council.

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat, 5
Sing, Heavenly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire
That shepherd who first taught the chosen seed
In the beginning how the heavens and earth
Rose out of Chaos: or, if Sion hill 10
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that flowed
Fast¹ by the oracle of God, I thence
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,
That with no middle flight intends to soar
Above the Aonian mount, while it pursues
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.
And chiefly Thou, O Spirit, that dost prefer 17
Before all temples the upright heart and pure,
Instruct me, for Thou know'st; Thou from the first
Wast present, and, with mighty wings outspread, 20
Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast Abyss,
And mad'st it pregnant: what in me is dark,

¹ close.

Illumine; what is low, raise and support;
That to the highth of this great argument
I may assert² Eternal Providence, 25
And justify the ways of God to men.

Say first—for Heaven hides nothing
from Thy view,
Nor the deep tract of Hell—say first what cause
Moved our grand Parents, in that happy state,
Favored of Heaven so highly, to fall off 30
From their Creator, and transgress his will
For³ one restraint, lords of the world besides.
Who first seduced them to that foul revolt?
The infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile,
Stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived 35
The mother of mankind, what time his pride
Had cast him out from Heaven, with all his host
Of rebel Angels, by whose aid, aspiring
To set himself in glory above his peers,
He trusted to have equalled the Most High, 40
If he opposed; and, with ambitious aim
Against the throne and monarchy of God,
Raised impious war in Heaven, and battle proud,
With vain attempt. Him the Almighty Power
Hurled headlong flaming from the ethereal 45
sky,
With hideous ruin and combustion, down
To bottomless perdition; there to dwell
In adamant chains and penal fire,
Who durst defy the Omnipotent to arms.
Nine times the space that measures day 50
and night
To mortal men, he with his horrid crew
Lay vanquished, rolling in the fiery gulf,
Confounded, though immortal. But his doom
Reserved him to more wrath; for now the thought
Both of lost happiness and lasting pain 55
Torments him; round he throws his baleful eyes,
That witnessed huge affliction and dismay,
Mixed with obdurate pride, and steadfast hate.

² vindicate.³ because of.

At once, as far as Angel's ken, he views
 The dismal situation waste and wild. 60
 A dungeon horrible on all sides round
 As one great furnace flamed; yet from
 those flames
 No light; but rather darkness visible
 Served only to discover sights of woe,
 Regions of sorrow, doleful shades, where
 peace 65
 And rest can never dwell; hope never
 comes
 That comes to all; but torture without end
 Still urges, and a fiery deluge, fed
 With ever-burning sulphur unconsumed.
 Such place Eternal Justice had prepared 70
 For those rebellious; here their prison or-
 dained
 In utter darkness, and their portion set,
 As far removed from God and light of
 Heaven,
 As from the center thrice to the utmost
 pole.
 Oh how unlike the place from whence they
 fell! 75
 There the companions of his fall, o'er-
 whelmed
 With floods and whirlwinds of tempestuous
 fire,
 He soon discerns; and weltering by his
 side
 One next himself in power, and next in
 crime,
 Long after known in Palestine, and named
 Beëlzebub. To whom the Arch-Enemy, 81
 And thence in Heaven called Satan, with
 bold words
 Breaking the horrid silence, thus began:—
 "If thou beest he—but oh how fallen!
 how changed
 From him who, in the happy realms of
 light, 85
 Clothed with transcendent brightness,
 didst outshine
 Myriads, though bright!—if he, whom
 mutual league,
 United thoughts and counsels, equal hope
 And hazard in the glorious enterprise,
 Joined with me once, now misery hath
 joined 90
 In equal ruin; into what pit thou seest
 From what highth fallen, so much the
 stronger proved
 He with his thunder: and till then who
 knew

The force of those dire arms? Yet not for
 those,
 Nor what the potent Victor in his rage 95
 Can else inflict, do I repent or change,
 Though changed in outward luster, that
 fixed mind,
 And high disdain from sense of injured
 merit,
 That with the Mightiest raised me to
 contend,
 And to the fierce contention brought along
 Innumerable force of Spirits armed, 101
 That durst dislike his reign, and, me pre-
 ferring,
 His utmost power with adverse power op-
 posed
 In dubious battle on the plains of Heaven,
 And shook his throne. What though the
 field be lost? 105
 All is not lost: the unconquerable will,
 And study of revenge, immortal hate,
 And courage never to submit or yield,
 And what is else not to be overcome;
 That glory never shall his wrath or might
 Extort from me. To bow and sue for
 grace 111
 With suppliant knee, and deify his power
 Who, from the terror of this arm, so late
 Doubted his empire¹—that were low in-
 deed;
 That were an ignominy and shame be-
 neath 115
 This downfall; since by fate the strength of
 gods
 And this empyreal substance cannot fail;
 Since, through experience of this great
 event,
 In arms not worse, in foresight much ad-
 vanced,
 We may with more successful hope re-
 solve 120
 To wage by force or guile eternal war,
 Irreconcilable to our grand Foe,
 Who now triumphs, and in the excess of
 joy
 Sole reigning holds the tyranny of
 Heaven."
 So spake the apostate Angel, though in
 pain, 125
 Vaunting aloud, but racked with deep de-
 spair;
 And him thus answered soon his bold com-
 peer:—

¹ sovereignty.

"O Prince! O Chief of many throned powers
 That led the embattled Seraphim to war
 Under thy conduct,¹ and, in dreadful deeds 130
 Fearless, endangered Heaven's perpetual King,
 And put to proof his high supremacy,
 Whether upheld by strength, or chance, or fate!
 Too well I see and rue the dire event
 That with sad overthrow and foul defeat 135
 Hath lost us Heaven, and all this mighty host
 In horrible destruction laid thus low,
 As far as gods and heavenly essences
 Can perish: for the mind and spirit remains
 Invincible, and vigor soon returns, 140
 Though all our glory extinct, and happy state
 Here swallowed up in endless misery.
 But what if he our Conqueror (whom I now
 Of force believe almighty, since no less
 Than such could have o'erpowered such force as ours) 145
 Have left us this our spirit and strength entire,
 Strongly to suffer and support our pains,
 That we may so suffice² his vengeful ire,
 Or do him mightier service as his thralls
 By right of war, whate'er his business be, 150
 Here in the heart of Hell to work in fire,
 Or do his errands in the gloomy Deep?
 What can it then avail, though yet we feel
 Strength undiminished, or eternal being
 To undergo eternal punishment?" 155
 Whereto with speedy words the Arch-Fiend replied:—
 "Fallen Cherub, to be weak is miserable,
 Doing or suffering: but of this be sure—
 To do aught good never will be our task,
 But ever to do ill our sole delight, 160
 As being the contrary to his high will
 Whom we resist. If then his providence
 Out of our evil seek to bring forth good,
 Our labor must be to pervert that end,
 And out of good still to find means of evil;
 Which oftimes may succeed so as per-
 haps 166

¹ command.² satisfy.

Shall grieve him, if I fail not, and disturb
 His inmost counsels from their destined aim.
 But see! the angry Victor hath recalled
 His ministers of vengeance and pursuit 170
 Back to the gates of Heaven; the sulphurous hail,
 Shot after us in storm, o'erblown hath laid
 The fiery surge that from the precipice
 Of Heaven received us falling; and the thunder,
 Winged with red lightning and impetuous rage, 175
 Perhaps hath spent his shafts, and ceases now
 To bellow through the vast and boundless Deep.
 Let us not slip³ the occasion, whether scorn
 Or satiate fury yield it from our Foe.
 Seest thou yon dreary plain, forlorn and wild, 180
 The seat of desolation, void of light,
 Save what the glimmering of these livid flames
 Casts pale and dreadful? Thither let us tend
 From off the tossing of these fiery waves;
 There rest, if any rest can harbor there; 185
 And, reassembling our afflicted powers,
 Consult how we may henceforth most offend
 Our Enemy, our own loss how repair,
 How overcome this dire calamity,
 What reinforcement we may gain from hope, 190
 If not what resolution from despair."
 Thus Satan, talking to his nearest mate,
 With head uplift above the wave, and eyes
 That sparkling blazed; his other parts be-
 sides,
 Prone on the flood, extended long and large, 195
 Lay floating many a rood, in bulk as huge
 As whom⁴ the fables name of monstrous size,
 Titanian, or Earth-born, that warred on Jove,
 Briareos or Typhon, whom the den
 By ancient Tarsus held, or that sea-beast
 Leviathan, which God of all his works 201
 Created hugest that swim the ocean-stream.

³ let slip.⁴ those whom.

Him, haply slumbering on the Norway
foam,
The pilot of some small night-foundered¹
skiff
Deeming some island, oft, as seamen tell,
With fixed anchor in his scaly rind, ²⁰⁶
Moors by his side under the lee, while
night
Invests the sea, and wishèd morn delays.
So stretched out huge in length the Arch-
Fiend lay,
Chained on the burning lake; nor ever
thence ²¹⁰
Had risen or heaved his head, but that the
will
And high permission of all-ruling Heaven
Left him at large to his own dark de-
signs,
That with reiterated crimes he might
Heap on himself damnation, while he
sought ²¹⁵
Evil to others, and enraged might see
How all his malice served but to bring
forth
Infinite goodness, grace, and mercy, shown
On Man by him seduced; but on himself
Treble confusion, wrath, and vengeance
poured. ²²⁰
Forthwith upright he rears from off the
pool
His mighty stature; on each hand the
flames
Driven backward slope their pointing
spires, and, rolled
In billows, leave i' the midst a horrid vale.
Then with expanded wings he steers his
flight ²²⁵
Aloft, incumbent on the dusky air,
That felt unusual weight; till on dry
land
He lights—if it were land that ever burned
With solid, as the lake with liquid fire,
And such appeared in hue, as when the
force ²³⁰
Of subterranean wind transports a hill
Torn from Pelorus, or the shattered side
Of thundering Ætna, whose combustible
And fuelled entrails thence conceiving fire,
Sublimed² with mineral fury, aid the
winds, ²³⁵
And leave a singèd bottom all involved
With stench and smoke: such resting found
the sole

¹ overtaken by night.² sublimated.

Of unblest feet. Him followed his next
mate,
Both glorying to have scaped the Stygian
flood
As gods, and by their own recovered
strength, ²⁴⁰
Not by the sufferance of supernal power.
“Is this the region, this the soil, the
clime,”
Said then the lost Archangel, “this the seat
That we must change for Heaven? this
mournful gloom
For that celestial light? Be it so, since
he ²⁴⁵
Who now is sovran can dispose and bid
What shall be right: farthest from him is
best,
Whom reason hath equalled, force hath
made supreme
Above his equals. Farewell, happy fields,
Where joy forever dwells! Hail, horrors!
hail, ²⁵⁰
Infernal world! and thou, profoundest
Hell,
Receive thy new possessor, one who brings
A mind not to be changed by place or time.
The mind is its own place, and in itself
Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of
Heaven. ²⁵⁵
What matter where, if I be still the same,
And what I should be, all but³ less than he
Whom thunder hath made greater? Here
at least
We shall be free; the Almighty hath not
built
Here for his envy, will not drive us hence:
Here we may reign secure, and in my
choice ²⁶¹
To reign is worth ambition, though in Hell:
Better to reign in Hell, than serve in
Heaven.
But wherefore let we then our faithful
friends,
The associates and co-partners of our
loss, ²⁶⁵
Lie thus astonished⁴ on the oblivious pool,
And call them not to share with us their
part
In this unhappy mansion, or once more
With rallied arms to try what may be yet
Regained in Heaven, or what more lost in
Hell?” ²⁷⁰
So Satan spake; and him Beëlzebub

³ only.⁴ confounded.

Thus answered:—"Leader of those armies
 bright
 Which but the Omnipotent none could
 have foiled,
 If once they hear that voice, their liveliest
 pledge
 Of hope in fears and dangers—heard so
 oft 275
 In worst extremes, and on the perilous edge
 Of battle when it raged, in all assaults
 Their surest signal—they will soon resume
 New courage and revive, though now they
 lie
 Grovelling and prostrate on yon lake of
 fire, 280
 As we erewhile, astounded and amazed:
 No wonder, fallen such a pernicious
 highth!"
 He scarce had ceased when the superior
 Fiend
 Was moving toward the shore; his ponder-
 ous shield,
 Ethereal temper, massy, large, and round,
 Behind him cast. The broad circum-
 ference 286
 Hung on his shoulders like the moon,
 whose orb
 Through optic glass the Tuscan artist
 views
 At evening from the top of Fesole,
 Or in Valdarno, to descry new lands, 290
 Rivers, or mountains, in her spotty globe.
 His spear—to equal which the tallest pine
 Hewn on Norwegian hills, to be the mast
 Of some great ammiral,¹ were but a
 wand—
 He walked with, to support uneasy
 steps 295
 Over the burning marl,² not like those
 steps
 On Heaven's azure; and the torrid clime
 Smote on him sore besides, vaulted with
 fire.
 Nathless he so endured, till on the beach
 Of that inflamed sea he stood, and called
 His legions, Angel forms, who lay en-
 tranced, 301
 Thick as autumnal leaves, that strew the
 brooks
 In Vallombrosa, where the Etrurian
 shades,
 High over-arched, embower; or scattered
 sedge

¹ flag-ship.² soil.

Afloat, when with fierce winds Orion
 armed 305
 Hath vexed the Red Sea coast, whose
 waves o'erthrew
 Busiris and his Memphian chivalry,
 While with perfidious hatred they pursued
 The sojourners of Goshen, who beheld
 From the safe shore their floating car-
 casses 310
 And broken chariot-wheels. So thick be-
 strown,
 Abject and lost lay these, covering the
 flood,
 Under amazement of³ their hideous
 change.
 He called so loud, that all the hollow deep
 Of Hell resounded:—"Princes, Poten-
 tates, 315
 Warriors, the Flower of Heaven,—once
 yours, now lost,
 If such astonishment as this can seize
 Eternal Spirits! Or have ye chosen this
 place
 After the toil of battle to repose
 Your wearied virtue, for the ease you
 find' 320
 To slumber here, as in the vales of Heaven?
 Or in this abject posture have ye sworn
 To adore the Conqueror, who now beholds
 Cherub and Seraph rolling in the flood
 With scattered arms and ensigns, till anon
 His swift pursuers from Heaven-gates dis-
 cern 326
 The advantage, and descending tread us
 down
 Thus drooping, or with linkèd thunder-
 bolts
 Transfix us to the bottom of this gulf?
 Awake, arise, or be for ever fall'n!" 330
 They heard, and were abashed, and up
 they sprung
 Upon the wing; as when men, wont to
 watch,
 On duty sleeping found by whom they
 dread,
 Rouse and bestir themselves ere well
 awake.
 Nor did they not perceive the evil plight
 In which they were, or the fierce pains not
 feel; 336
 Yet to their General's voice they soon
 obeyed,
 Innumerable. As when the potent rod

³ overwhelmed by.

Of Amram's son,¹ in Egypt's evil day,
 Waved round the coast, up-called a pitchy
 cloud 340
 Of locusts, warping on the eastern wind,
 That o'er the realm of impious Pharaoh
 hung
 Like night, and darkened all the land of
 Nile:
 So numberless were those bad Angels seen
 Hovering on wing under the cope of Hell,
 'Twixt upper, nether, and surrounding
 fires; 346
 Till, as a signal given, the uplifted spear
 Of their great Sultan waving to direct
 Their course, in even balance down they
 light
 On the firm brimstone, and fill all the
 plain: 350
 A multitude like which the populous
 North
 Poured never from her frozen loins, to
 pass
 Rhene or the Danaw,² when her barbarous
 sons
 Came like a deluge on the South, and
 spread
 Beneath³ Gibraltar to the Libyan sands.
 Forthwith from every squadron and each
 band 356
 The heads and leaders thither haste where
 stood
 Their great Commander; godlike shapes,
 and forms
 Excelling human, princely Dignities,
 And Powers that erst in Heaven sat on
 thrones; 360
 Though of their names in Heavenly records
 now
 Be no memorial, blotted out and rased
 By their rebellion from the Books of Life.
 Nor had they yet among the sons of Eve
 Got them new names, till, wandering o'er
 the Earth, 365
 Through God's high sufferance, for the
 trial of man,
 By falsities and lies the greatest part
 Of mankind they corrupted to forsake
 God their Creator, and the invisible
 Glory of him that made them, to trans-
 form 370
 Oft to the image of a brute, adorned
 With gay religions⁴ full of pomp and gold,
 And devils to adore for deities:

Then were they known to men by various
 names,
 And various idols through the heathen
 world. 375
 Say, Muse, their names then known,
 who first, who last,
 Roused from the slumber on that fiery
 couch,
 At their great Emperor's call, as next in
 worth,
 Came singly where he stood on the bare
 strand,
 While the promiscuous crowd stood yet
 aloof: 380
 The chief were those who from the pit of
 Hell
 Roaming to seek their prey on Earth, durst
 fix
 Their seats, long after, next the seat of
 God,
 Their altars by his altar, gods adored
 Among the nations round, and durst
 abide 385
 Jehovah thundering out of Sion, throned
 Between the Cherubim; yea, often placed
 Within his sanctuary itself their shrines,
 Abominations; and with cursèd things
 His holy rites and solemn feasts profaned,
 And with their darkness durst affront his
 light. 391
 First, Moloch, horrid king, besmeared with
 blood
 Of human sacrifice, and parents' tears;
 Though, for the noise of drums and tim-
 brels loud,
 Their children's cries unheard that passed
 through fire 395
 To his grim idol. Him the Ammonite
 Worshipped in Rabba and her watery
 plain,
 In Argob and in Basan, to the stream
 Of utmost Arnon. Nor content with such
 Audacious neighborhood, the wisest heart
 Of Solomon he led by fraud to build 401
 His temple right against the temple of
 God,
 On that opprobrious hill, and made his
 grove
 The pleasant valley of Hinnom, Tophet
 thence
 And black Gehenna called, the type of
 Hell. 405
 Next, Chemos, the obscene dread of
 Moab's sons,

¹ Moses.² Danube.³ south of.⁴ rites.

From Aroer to Nebo and the wild
Of southmost Abarim; in Hesebon
And Horonáim, Seon's realm, beyond
The flowery dale of Sibma clad with vines,
And Eleále to the Asphaltic pool; ⁴¹¹
Peor his other name, when he enticed
Israel in Sittim, on their march from Nile,
To do him wanton rites, which cost them
woe.

Yet thence his lustful orgies he enlarged ⁴¹⁵
Even to that hill of scandal, by the grove
Of Moloch homicide, lust hard by hate,
Till good Josiah drove them thence to
Hell.

With these came they who, from the
bordering flood

Of old Euphrates to the brook that parts
Egypt from Syrian ground, had general
names ⁴²¹

Of Baälim and Ashtaroth: those male,
These feminine. For Spirits, when they
please,

Can either sex assume, or both; so soft
And uncompounded is their essence pure,
Not tied or manacled with joint or limb, ⁴²⁶
Nor founded on the brittle strength of
bones,

Like cumbrous flesh; but, in what shape
they choose,

Dilated or condensed, bright or obscure,
Can execute their æry purposes, ⁴³⁰
And works of love or enmity fulfil.

For those the race of Israel oft forsook
Their living Strength, and unfrequented
left

His righteous altar, bowing lowly down
To bestial gods; for which their heads as
low ⁴³⁵

Bowed down in battle, sunk before the
spear

Of despicable foes. With these in troop
Came Astoreth, whom the Phenicians
called

Astarté, Queen of Heaven, with crescent
horns;

To whose bright image nightly by the
moon ⁴⁴⁰

Sidonian virgins paid their vows and songs;
In Sion also not unsung, where stood
Her temple on the offensive mountain,
built

By that uxorious king whose heart, though
large,

Beguiled by fair idolatresses, fell ⁴⁴⁵

To idols foul. Thammuz came next be-
hind,

Whose annual wound in Lebánon allured
The Syrian damsels to lament his fate
In amorous ditties all a summer's day,
While smooth Adonis from his native rock
Ran purple to the sea, supposed with
blood ⁴⁵¹

Of Thammuz yearly wounded: the love-
tale

Infected Sion's daughters with like heat,
Whose wanton passions in the sacred
porch

Ezekiel saw, when, by the vision led, ⁴⁵⁵
His eye surveyed the dark idolatries

Of alienated Judah. Next came one
Who mourned in earnest, when the captive
ark

Maimed his brute image, head and hands
lopt off

In his own temple, on the grunsel-edge, ¹ ⁴⁶⁰
Where he fell flat, and shamed his wor-
shippers:

Dagon his name, sea-monster, upward
man

And downward fish; yet had his temple
high

Reared in Azotus, dreaded through the
coast

Of Palestine, in Gath and Ascalon, ⁴⁶⁵
And Accaron and Gaza's frontier bounds.
Him followed Rimmon, whose delightful
seat

Was fair Damascus, on the fertile banks
Of Abbana and Pharphar, lucid streams.
He also against the house of God was bold:

A leper once he lost, and gained a king, ⁴⁷¹
Ahaz, his sottish conqueror, whom he drew
God's altar to disparage and displace

For one of Syrian mode, whereon to burn
His odious offerings, and adore the gods ⁴⁷⁵
Whom he had vanquished. After these
appeared

A crew who, under names of old renown,
Osiris, Isis, Orus, and their train,
With monstrous shapes and sorceries
abused ²

Fanatic Egypt and her priests, to seek ⁴⁸⁰
Their wandering gods disguised in brutish
forms

Rather than human. Nor did Israel scape
The infection, when their borrowed gold
composed

¹ threshold.

² deceived.

The calf in Oreb, and the rebel king
 Doubled that sin in Bethel and in Dan, 485
 Likening his Maker to the grazèd ox—
 Jehovah, who, in one night, when he
 passed
 From Egypt marching, equalled with one
 stroke
 Both her first-born and all her bleating
 gods.
 Belial came last, than whom a Spirit more
 lewd 490
 Fell not from Heaven, or more gross to
 love
 Vice for itself. To him no temple stood
 Or altar smoked; yet who more oft than
 he
 In temples and at altars, when the priest
 Turns atheist, as did Eli's sons, who filled
 With lust and violence the house of God?
 In courts and palaces he also reigns, 497
 And in luxurious cities, where the noise
 Of riot ascends above their loftiest towers,
 And injury and outrage; and when night
 Darkens the streets, then wander forth the
 sons 501
 Of Belial, flown¹ with insolence and wine.
 Witness the streets of Sodom, and that
 night
 In Gibeah, when the hospitable door
 Exposed a matron, to avoid worse rape. 505
 These were the prime in order and in
 might;
 The rest were long to tell, though far re-
 nowned
 The Ionian gods—of Javan's issue held
 Gods, yet confessed later than Heaven and
 Earth,
 Their boasted parents;—Titan, Heaven's
 first-born, 510
 With his enormous brood, and birthright
 seized
 By younger Saturn; he from mightier Jove,
 His own and Rhea's son, like measure
 found;
 So Jove usurping reigned. These, first in
 Crete
 And Ida known, thence on the snowy top
 Of cold Olympus ruled the middle air, 516
 Their highest Heaven; or on the Delphian
 cliff,
 Or in Dodona, and through all the bounds
 Of Doric land; or who with Saturn old
 Fled over Adria to the Hesperian fields, 520

¹ flushed.

And o'er the Celtic roamed the utmost
 isles.

All these and more came flocking; but
 with looks
 Downcast and damp, yet such wherein
 appeared
 Obscure some glimpse of joy, to have
 found their Chief
 Not in despair, to have found themselves
 not lost 525
 In loss itself; which on his countenance
 cast
 Like doubtful hue. But he, his wonted
 pride
 Soon recollecting,² with high words that
 bore
 Semblance of worth, not substance, gently
 raised
 Their fainting courage, and dispelled their
 fears: 530
 Then straight commands that at the war-
 like sound
 Of trumpets loud and clarions, be up-
 reared
 His mighty standard. That proud honor
 claimed
 Azazel as his right, a Cherub tall:
 Who forthwith from the glittering staff
 unfurled 535
 The imperial ensign, which, full high ad-
 vanced,
 Shone like a meteor streaming to the wind,
 With gems and golden lustre rich em-
 blazed,
 Seraphic arms and trophies; all the while
 Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds: 540
 At which the universal host up-sent
 A shout that tore Hell's concave, and be-
 yond
 Frighted the reign of Chaos and old Night.
 All in a moment through the gloom were
 seen
 Ten thousand banners rise into the air, 545
 With orient colors waving; with them rose
 A forest huge of spears; and thronging
 helms
 Appeared, and serried³ shields in thick
 array
 Of depth immeasurable. Anon they move
 In perfect phalanx to the Dorian mood 550
 Of flutes and soft recorders⁴—such as
 raised
 To highth of noblest temper heroes old

² recovering.³ interlocked.⁴ flageolets.

Arming to battle, and instead of rage
 Deliberate valor breathed, firm and un-
 moved
 With dread of death to flight or foul re-
 treat; 555
 Nor wanting power to mitigate and swage,¹
 With solemn touches troubled thoughts,
 and chase
 Anguish and doubt and fear and sorrow
 and pain
 From mortal or immortal minds. Thus
 they,
 Breathing united force with fixèd thought,
 Moved on in silence to soft pipes that
 charmed 561
 Their painful steps o'er the burnt soil; and
 now
 Advanced in view they stand, a horrid
 front
 Of dreadful length and dazzling arms, in
 guise
 Of warriors old, with ordered spear and
 shield, 565
 Awaiting what command their mighty
 Chief
 Had to impose. He through the armèd
 files
 Darts his experienced eye, and soon trav-
 erse²
 The whole battalion views—their order
 due,
 Their visages and stature as of gods; 570
 Their number last he sums. And now his
 heart
 Distends with pride, and hardening in his
 strength,
 Glories; for never, since created man,
 Met such embodied force as, named³ with
 these,
 Could merit more than that small in-
 fantry 575
 Warred on by cranes: though all the giant
 brood
 Of Phlegra with the heroic race were joined
 That fought at Thebes and Ilium, on each
 side
 Mixed with auxiliar gods; and what re-
 sounds
 In fable or romance of Uther's son, 580
 Begirt with British and Armoric knights;
 And all who since, baptized or infidel,
 Jousted in Aspramont, or Montalban,
 Damascus, or Marocco, or Trebisond;

Or whom Biserta sent from Afric shore 585
 When Charlemain with all his peerage fell
 By Fontarabbia. Thus far these beyond
 Compare of mortal prowess, yet observed⁴
 Their dread Commander. He, above the
 rest
 In shape and gesture proudly eminent, 590
 Stood like a tower; his form had yet not
 lost
 All her original brightness, nor appeared
 Less than Archangel ruined, and the excess
 Of glory obscured: as when the sun new-
 risen
 Looks through the horizontal misty air 595
 Shorn of his beams, or from behind the
 moon,
 In dim eclipse, disastrous⁵ twilight sheds
 On half the nations, and with fear of
 change
 Perplexes monarchs. Darkened so, yet
 shone
 Above them all the Archangel; but his
 face 600
 Deep scars of thunder had intrenched, and
 care
 Sat on his faded cheek, but under brows
 Of dauntless courage, and considerate⁶
 pride
 Waiting revenge. Cruel his eye, but cast
 Signs of remorse and passion, to behold 605
 The fellows of his crime, the followers
 rather
 (Far other once beheld in bliss), con-
 demned
 Forever now to have their lot in pain;
 Millions of Spirits for his fault amerced⁷
 Of Heaven, and from eternal splendors
 flung 610
 For his revolt; yet faithful how they
 stood,
 Their glory withered: as, when Heaven's
 fire
 Hath scathed the forest oaks or mountain
 pines,
 With singèd top their stately growth,
 though bare,
 Stands on the blasted heath. He now pre-
 pared 615
 To speak; whereat their doubled ranks
 they bend
 From wing to wing, and half enclose him
 round

¹ assuage.² across.³ compared.⁴ obeyed.⁶ meditative.⁵ threatening disaster.⁷ deprived.

With all his peers: attention held them
mute.

Thrice he assayed, and thrice, in spite of
scorn,

Tears, such as Angels weep, burst forth: at
last 620

Words interwove with sighs found out
their way:—

“O myriads of immortal Spirits! O
Powers

Matchless, but with the Almighty!—and
that strife

Was not inglorious, though the event¹ was
dire,

As this place testifies, and this dire change,
Hateful to utter. But what power of
mind, 626

Foreseeing or presaging, from the depth
Of knowledge past or present, could have
feared

How such united force of gods, how such
As stood like these, could ever know re-
pulse? 630

For who can yet believe, though after
loss,

That all these puissant legions, whose exile
Hath emptied Heaven, shall fail to re-
ascend,

Self-raised, and repossess their native
seat?

For me, be witness all the host of Heaven,
If counsels different, or danger shunned 636

By me, have lost our hopes. But he who
reigns

Monarch in Heaven, till then as one secure
Sat on his throne, upheld by old repute,

Consent or custom, and his regal state 640

Put forth at full, but still his strength con-
cealed;

Which tempted our attempt, and wrought
our fall.

Henceforth his might we know, and know
our own,

So as not either to provoke, or dread
New war provoked. Our better part re-
mains 645

To work² in close design, by fraud or guile,
What force effected not; that he no less

At length from us may find, who over-
comes

By force hath overcome but half his foe.
Space may produce new worlds; whereof

so rife 650

There went a fame in Heaven that he ere
long

Intended to create, and therein plant
A generation whom his choice regard

Should favor equal to the Sons of Heaven.
Thither, if but to pry, shall be perhaps 655

Our first eruption;³ thither, or elsewhere;
For this infernal pit shall never hold

Celestial Spirits in bondage, nor the
Abyss

Long under darkness cover. But these
thoughts

Full counsel must mature. Peace is de-
spaired, 660

For who can think submission? War,
then, war,

Open or understood,⁴ must be resolved.”
He spake; and, to confirm his words,

outflew
Millions of flaming swords, drawn from the

thighs

Of mighty Cherubim; the sudden blaze 665

Far round illumined Hell; highly they

raged

Against the Highest, and fierce with

grasped arms

Clashed on their sounding shields the din

of war,

Hurling defiance toward the vault of

Heaven.

There stood a hill not far, whose grisly

top 670

Belched fire and rolling smoke; the rest en-
tire

Shone with a glossy scurf, undoubted sign

That in his womb was hid metallic ore,

The work of sulphur. Thither, winged

with speed,

A numerous brigad hastened: as when

bands 675

Of pioneers, with spade and pickaxe

armed,

Forerun the royal camp, to trench a field,

Or cast a rampart. Mammon led them

on:

Mammon, the least erected Spirit that fell

From Heaven; for even in Heaven his

looks and thoughts 680

Were always downward bent, admiring

more

The riches of Heaven's pavement, trodden

gold,

Than aught divine or holy else enjoyed

Than aught divine or holy else enjoyed

¹ outcome.

² accomplish.

³ sortie.

⁴ secretly decided on.

In vision beatific. By him first
 Men also, and by his suggestion taught, 685
 Ransacked the Center, and with impious
 hands
 Rifled the bowels of their mother Earth
 For treasures, better hid. Soon had his
 crew
 Opened into the hill a spacious wound,
 And digged out ribs of gold. Let none
 admire¹ 690
 That riches grow in Hell; that soil may
 best
 Deserve the precious bane. And here let
 those
 Who boast in mortal things, and wonder-
 ing tell
 Of Babel, and the works of Memphian
 kings,
 Learn how their greatest monuments of
 fame, 695
 And strength and art, are easily outdone
 By Spirits reprobate, and in an hour
 What in an age they, with incessant toil
 And hands innumerable, scarce perform.
 Nigh on the plain, in many cells prepared,
 That underneath had veins of liquid fire 701
 Sluiced from the lake, a second multitude
 With wondrous art founded² the massy
 ore,
 Severing³ each kind, and scummed the
 bullion dross.
 A third as soon had formed within the
 ground 705
 A various mold, and from the boiling cells,
 By strange conveyance, filled each hollow
 nook:
 As in an organ, from one blast of wind,
 To many a row of pipes the sound-board
 breathes.
 Anon, out of the earth a fabric huge 710
 Rose like an exhalation, with the sound
 Of dulcet symphonies and voices sweet—
 Built like a temple, where pilasters round
 Were set, and Doric pillars overlaid
 With golden architrave; nor did there
 want 715
 Cornice or frieze, with bossy⁴ sculptures
 graven:
 The roof was fretted gold. Not Babylon,
 Nor great Alcairo, such magnificence
 Equalled in all their glories, to enshrine
 Belus or Serapis their gods, or seat 720

Their kings, when Egypt with Assyria
 strove
 In wealth and luxury. The ascending pile
 Stood fixed her stately highth, and straight
 the doors,
 Opening their brazen folds, discover, wide
 Within, her ample spaces o'er the smooth
 And level pavement; from the archèd
 roof, 726
 Pendent by subtle magic, many a row
 Of starry lamps and blazing cressets, fed
 With naphtha and asphaltus, yielded light
 As from a sky. The hasty multitude 730
 Admiring entered, and the work some
 praise,
 And some the architect. His hand was
 known
 In Heaven by many a towered structure
 high
 Where sceptered Angels held their res-
 idence,
 And sat as Princes, whom the supreme
 King 735
 Exalted to such power, and gave to rule,
 Each in his hierarchy, the Orders bright.
 Nor was his name unheard or unadored
 In ancient Greece; and in Ausonian land
 Men called him Mulciber; and how he
 fell 740
 From Heaven they fabled, thrown by
 angry Jove
 Sheer o'er the crystal battlements: from
 morn
 To noon he fell, from noon to dewy eve,
 A summer's day; and with the setting sun
 Dropped from the zenith like a falling
 star, 745
 On Lemnos, the Ægean isle. Thus they
 relate,
 Erring; for he with this rebellious rout
 Fell long before; nor aught availed him
 now
 To have built in Heaven high towers; nor
 did he scape
 By all his engines,⁵ but was headlong
 sent 750
 With his industrious crew to build in Hell.
 Meanwhile, the wingèd heralds, by com-
 mand
 Of sovran power, with awful ceremony
 And trumpet's sound, throughout the
 host proclaim
 A solemn council forthwith to be held 755

¹ wonder.
² separating.

³ melted.
⁴ embossed, in high relief.

⁵ contrivances.

At Pandemonium, the high capital
 Of Satan and his peers. Their summons
 called
 From every band and squarèd regiment
 By place or choice the worthiest; they
 anon,
 With hundreds and with thousands, troop-
 ing came, 760
 Attended. All access was thronged; the
 gates
 And porches wide, but chief the spacious
 hall
 (Though like a covered field, where cham-
 pions bold
 Wont¹ ride in armed, and at the Soldan's
 chair
 Defied the best of Panim² chivalry 765
 To mortal combat, or career with lance),
 Thick swarmed, both on the ground and in
 the air,
 Brushed with the hiss of rustling wings.
 As bees
 In spring-time, when the Sun with Taurus
 rides,
 Pour forth their populous youth about the
 hive 770
 In clusters; they among fresh dews and
 flowers
 Fly to and fro, or on the smoothèd plank,
 The suburb of their straw-built citadel,
 New rubbed with balm, expatiate³ and
 confer⁴
 Their state-affairs. So thick the aery
 crowd 775
 Swarmed and were straitened; till, the
 signal given,
 Behold a wonder! they but now who
 seemed
 In bigness to surpass Earth's giant sons,
 Now less than smallest dwarfs, in narrow
 room
 Throng numberless, like that pygmean
 race 780
 Beyond the Indian mount; or faery elves,
 Whose midnight revels, by a forest-side
 Or fountain, some belated peasant sees,
 Or dreams he sees, while overhead the
 Moon
 Sits arbitress,⁵ and nearer to the Earth 785
 Wheels her pale course; they, on their
 mirth and dance
 Intent, with jocund music charm his ear;

At once with joy and fear his heart re-
 bounds.
 Thus incorporeal Spirits to smallest forms
 Reduced their shapes immense, and were
 at large, 790
 Though without number still, amidst the
 hall
 Of that infernal court. But far within,
 And in their own dimensions like them-
 selves,
 The great Seraphic Lords and Cherubim
 In close recess⁶ and secret conclave sat, 795
 A thousand demi-gods on golden seats,
 Frequent⁷ and full. After short silence
 then,
 And summons read, the great consult
 began.

BOOK II

THE ARGUMENT

The consultation begun, Satan debates
 whether another battle be to be haz-
 arded for the recovery of Heaven:
 some advise it, others dissuade. A
 third proposal is preferred, mentioned
 before by Satan—to search the truth
 of that prophecy or tradition in Heaven
 concerning another world, and another
 kind of creature, equal, or not much
 inferior, to themselves, about this time
 to be created. Their doubt who shall
 be sent on this difficult search: Satan,
 their chief, undertakes alone the voy-
 age; is honored and applauded. The
 council thus ended, the rest betake
 them several ways and to several em-
 ployments, as their inclinations lead
 them, to entertain the time till Satan
 return. He passes on his journey to
 Hell-gates, finds them shut, and who
 sat there to guard them; by whom at
 length they are opened, and discover
 to him the great gulf between Hell
 and Heaven; with what difficulty he
 passes through, directed by Chaos, the
 Power of that place, to the sight of
 this new World which he sought.

High on a throne of royal state, which far
 Outshone the wealth of Ormus and of
 Ind,

¹ used to.
⁴ discuss.

² pagan.

³ walk about.
⁵ governess.

⁶ retirement.

⁷ crowded.

Or where the gorgeous East with richest
hand
Showers on her kings barbaric pearl and
gold,
Satan exalted sat, by merit raised 5
To that bad eminence; and, from despair
Thus high uplifted beyond hope, aspires
Beyond thus high, insatiate to pursue
Vain war with Heaven; and, by success¹
untaught,
His proud imaginations thus displayed:—
“Powers and Dominions, Deities of
Heaven! 11
For since no deep within her gulf can hold
Immortal vigor, though oppressed and
fallen,
I give not Heaven for lost: from this de-
scent
Celestial Virtues rising will appear 15
More glorious and more dread than from
no fall,
And trust themselves to fear no second
fate!
Me though just right, and the fixed laws, of
Heaven,
Did first create your leader, next, free
choice,
With what besides in council or in fight 20
Hath been achieved of merit, yet this loss,
Thus far at least recovered, hath much
more
Established in a safe, unenvied throne,
Yielded with full consent. The happier
state
In Heaven, which follows dignity, might 25
draw
Envy from each inferior; but who here
Will envy whom the highest place exposes
Foremost to stand against the Thunderer’s
aim
Your bulwark, and condemns to greatest
share
Of endless pain? Where there is, then, no
good
For which to strive, no strife can grow up
there 31
From faction: for none sure will claim in
Hell
Precedence; none whose portion is so small
Of present pain that with ambitious mind
Will covet more! With this advantage,
then, 35
To union, and firm faith, and firm accord,

¹ the event.

More than can be in Heaven, we now re-
turn
To claim our just inheritance of old,
Surer to prosper than prosperity
Could have assured us; and by what best
way, 40
Whether of open war or covert guile,
We now debate. Who can advise may
speak.”
He ceased; and next him Moloch, scap-
tred king,
Stood up, the strongest and the fiercest
Spirit
That fought in Heaven, now fiercer by
despair. 45
His trust was with the Eternal to be
deemed
Equal in strength, and rather than be less
Cared not to be at all; with that care
lost
Went all his fear: of God, or Hell, or worse,
He recked not, and these words thereafter
spake:— 50
“My sentence² is for open war. Of wiles,
More unexpert, I boast not: them let those
Contrive who need, or when they need;
not now.
For while they sit contriving, shall the
rest—
Millions that stand in arms, and longing
wait 55
The signal to ascend—sit lingering here,
Heaven’s fugitives, and for their dwelling-
place
Accept this dark opprobrious den of shame,
The prison of his tyranny who reigns
By our delay? No! let us rather choose, 60
Armed with Hell-flames and fury, all at
once
O’er Heaven’s high towers to force resist-
less way,
Turning our tortures into horrid arms
Against the Torturer; when, to meet the
noise
Of his almighty engine, he shall hear 65
Infernal thunder, and for lightning see
Black fire and horror shot with equal rage
Among his Angels, and his throne itself
Mixed with Tartarean sulphur and strange
fire, 69
His own invented torments. But perhaps
The way seems difficult and steep to scale
With upright wing against a higher foe?

² judgment.

Let such bethink them, if the sleepy
drench

Of that forgetful lake benumb not still,
That in our proper motion we ascend 75
Up to our native seat; descent and fall
To us is adverse. Who but felt of late,
When the fierce foe hung on our broken
rear

Insulting, and pursued us through the
deep,

With what compulsion and laborious
flight 80

We sunk thus low? The ascent is easy,
then;

The event is feared? Should we again
provoke

Our stronger, some worse way his wrath
may find

To our destruction—if there be in Hell
Fear to be worse destroyed? What can be
worse 85

Than to dwell here, driven out from bliss,
condemned

In this abhorrèd deep to utter woe;
Where pain of unextinguishable fire

Must exercise us, without hope of end,
The vassals of his anger, when the scourge

Inexorably, and the torturing hour, 91
Calls us to penance? More destroyed
than thus,

We should be quite abolished, and expire.
What fear we then? what doubt we to
incense

His utmost ire? which, to the highth en-
raged, 95

Will either quite consume us, and reduce
To nothing this essential¹—happier far

Than miserable to have eternal being!¹—
Or, if our substance be indeed divine,

And cannot cease to be, we are at worst 100
On this side nothing; and by proof we feel
Our power sufficient to disturb his Heaven,

And with perpetual inroads to alarm,
Though inaccessible, his fatal throne:

Which, if not victory, is yet revenge.” 105

He ended frowning, and his look de-
nounced²

Desperate revenge, and battle dangerous
To less than gods. On the other side up
rose

Belial, in act more graceful and humane;
A fairer person lost not Heaven; he seemed

For dignity composed, and high exploit. 111

¹ this being of ours.

² threatened.

But all was false and hollow; though his
tongue

Dropped manna, and could make the
worse appear

The better reason, to perplex and dash
Maturest counsels: for his thoughts were
low— 115

To vice industrious, but to nobler deeds
Timorous and slothful. Yet he pleased
the ear,

And with persuasive accent thus began:—
“I should be much for open war, O Peers,

As not behind in hate, if what was urged
Main reason to persuade immediate war

Did not dissuade me most, and seem to
cast 122

Ominous conjecture on the whole success;
When he who most excels in fact of arms,
In what he counsels and in what excels 125

Mistrustful, grounds his courage on de-
spair

And utter dissolution, as the scope
Of all his aim, after some dire revenge.

First, what revenge? The towers of
Heaven are filled

With armèd watch, that render all access
Impregnable: oft on the bordering deep 131

Encamp their legions, or with obscure
wing

Scout far and wide into the realm of Night,
Scorning surprise. Or could we break our
way

By force, and at our heels all Hell should
rise 135

With blackest insurrection, to confound
Heaven's purest light, yet our great
Enemy,

All incorruptible, would on his throne
Sit unpolled, and the ethereal mould,

Incapable of stain, would soon expel 140
Her mischief, and purge off the baser fire,
Victorious. Thus repulsed, our final hope

Is flat despair: we must exasperate
The Almighty Victor to spend all his
rage,

And that must end us; that must be our
cure— 145

To be no more. Sad cure! for who would
lose,

Though full of pain, this intellectual being,
Those thoughts that wander through
eternity,

To perish rather, swallowed up and lost
In the wide womb of uncreated Night, 150

Devoid of sense and motion? And who knows,

Let this be good, whether our angry Foe
Can give it, or will ever? How he can
Is doubtful; that he never will is sure.

Will He, so wise, let loose at once his ire,¹⁵⁵
Belike through impotence, or unaware,
To give his enemies their wish, and end
Them in his anger, whom his anger saves
To punish endless? 'Wherefore cease we
then?'

Say they who counsel war; 'we are decreed,
Reserved, and destined to eternal woe; ¹⁶¹
Whatever doing, what can we suffer more,
What can we suffer worse?' Is this then
worst,

Thus sitting, thus consulting, thus in arms?
What when we fled amain, pursued and
strook ¹⁶⁵

With Heaven's afflicting thunder, and be-
sought

The Deep to shelter us? This Hell then
seemed

A refuge from those wounds. Or when we
lay

Chained on the burning lake? That sure
was worse.

What if the breath that kindled those grim
fires, ¹⁷⁰

Awaked, should blow them into sevenfold
rage,

And plunge us in the flames; or from above
Should intermitted vengeance arm again
His red right hand to plague us? What if
all

Her stores were opened, and this firma-
ment ¹⁷⁵

Of Hell should spout her cataracts of fire,
Impendent horrors, threatening hideous
fall

One day upon our heads; while we per-
haps,

Designing or exhorting glorious war,
Caught in a fiery tempest, shall be hurled,
Each on his rock transfix'd, the sport and
prey ¹⁸¹

Of racking whirlwinds, or forever sunk
Under yon boiling ocean, wrapped in
chains,

There to converse with everlasting groans,
Unrespited, unpitied, unreprieved, ¹⁸⁵
Ages of hopeless end? This would be
worse.

War therefore, open or concealed, alike

My voice dissuades: for what can¹ force or
guile

With him, or who deceive his mind, whose
eye

Views all things at one view? He from
Heaven's highth ¹⁹⁰

All these our motions vain sees and de-
rides;

Not more almighty to resist our might
Than wise to frustrate all our plots and
wiles.

Shall we, then, live thus vile—the race of
Heaven

Thus trampled, thus expelled to suffer here
Chains and these torments? Better these
than worse, ¹⁹⁶

By my advice; since fate inevitable
Subdues us, and omnipotent decree,

The Victor's will. To suffer, as to do,
Our strength is equal; nor the law unjust

That so ordains: this was at first resolved,
If we were wise, against so great a foe ²⁰²

Contending, and so doubtful what might
fall.

I laugh when those who at the spear are
bold

And venturous, if that fail them, shrink,
and fear ²⁰⁵

What yet they know must follow—to en-
dure

Exile, or ignominy, or bonds, or pain,
The sentence of their conqueror. This is
now

Our doom; which if we can sustain and
bear,

Our Supreme Foe in time may much remit
His anger, and perhaps, thus far removed,

Not mind us not offending, satisfied ²¹²
With what is punished; whence these rag-
ing fires

Will slacken, if his breath stir not their
flames.

Our purer essence then will overcome ²¹⁵
Their noxious vapor, or, inured, not feel;

Or, changed at length, and to the place
conformed

In temper and in nature, will receive
Familiar the fierce heat; and, void of pain,

This horror will grow mild, this darkness
light; ²²⁰

Besides what hope the never-ending flight
Of future days may bring, what chance,
what change

¹ avail.

Worth waiting,—since our present lot appears
 For happy though but ill, for ill not worst,
 If we procure not to ourselves more woe.”
 Thus Belial, with words clothed in reason’s garb, 226
 Counsell’d ignoble ease and peaceful sloth,
 Not peace; and after him thus Mammon spake:—
 “Either to disenthroned the King of Heaven
 We war, if war be best, or to regain 230
 Our own right lost. Him to unthroned we then
 May hope, when everlasting Fate shall yield
 To fickle Chance, and Chaos judge the strife.
 The former, vain to hope, argues as vain
 The latter; for what place can be for us 235
 Within Heaven’s bound, unless Heaven’s Lord Supreme
 We overpower? Suppose he should relent,
 And publish grace to all, on promise made
 Of new subjection; with what eyes could we 239
 Stand in his presence, humble, and receive
 Strict laws imposed, to celebrate his throne
 With warbled hymns, and to his Godhead sing
 Forced Halleluiahs, while he lordly sits
 Our envied sovran, and his altar breathes
 Ambrosial odors and ambrosial flowers, 245
 Our servile offerings? This must be our task
 In Heaven, this our delight. How wearisome
 Eternity so spent in worship paid
 To whom we hate! Let us not then pursue,
 By force impossible, by leave obtained 250
 Unacceptable, though in Heaven, our state
 Of splendid vassalage; but rather seek
 Our own good from ourselves, and from our own
 Live to ourselves, though in this vast recess,
 Free, and to none accountable, preferring
 Hard liberty before the easy yoke 256
 Of servile pomp. Our greatness will appear
 Then most conspicuous, when great things of small,
 Useful of hurtful, prosperous of adverse,

We can create, and in what place soe’er 260
 Thrive under evil, and work ease out of pain
 Through labor and endurance. This deep world
 Of darkness do we dread? How oft amidst
 Thick clouds and dark doth Heaven’s all-ruling Sire
 Choose to reside, his glory unobscured, 265
 And with the majesty of darkness round
 Covers his throne, from whence deep thunders roar,
 Mustering their rage, and Heaven resembles Hell!
 As he our darkness, cannot we his light
 Imitate when we please? This desert soil
 Wants not her hidden lustre, gems and gold; 271
 Nor want we skill or art from whence to raise
 Magnificence; and what can Heaven show more?
 Our torments also may, in length of time,
 Become our elements, these piercing fires
 As soft as now severe, our temper changed
 Into their temper; which must needs remove 277
 The sensible¹ of pain. All things invite
 To peaceful counsels, and the settled state
 Of order, how in safety best we may 280
 Compose our present evils, with regard
 Of what we are and where, dismissing quite
 All thoughts of war. Ye have what I advise.”
 He scarce had finished, when such murmur filled
 The assembly, as when hollow rocks retreat 285
 The sound of blustering winds, which all night long
 Had roused the sea, now with hoarse cadence lull
 Seafaring men o’erwatched, whose bark by chance,
 Or pinnace, anchors in a craggy bay
 After the tempest: such applause was heard 290
 As Mammon ended, and his sentence pleased,
 Advising peace: for such another field
 They dreaded worse than Hell; so much the fear
 Of thunder and the sword of Michael

¹ sense.

Wrought still within them; and no less
 desire 295
 To found this nether empire, which might
 rise,
 By policy, and long process of time,
 In emulation opposite to Heaven.
 Which when Beëlzebub perceived—than
 whom,
 Satan except, none higher sat—with grave
 Aspect he rose, and in his rising seemed 301
 A pillar of state. Deep on his front en-
 graven
 Deliberation sat and public care;
 And princely counsel in his face yet shone,
 Majestic, though in ruin. Sage he stood,
 With Atlantean shoulders fit to bear 306
 The weight of mightiest monarchies; his
 look
 Drew audience and attention still as night
 Or summer's noontide air, while thus he
 spake:—
 "Thrones and Imperial Powers, Off-
 spring of Heaven, 310
 Ethereal Virtues! or these titles now
 Must we renounce, and, changing style,
 be called
 Princes of Hell? for so the popular vote
 Inclines—here to continue, and build up
 here
 A growing empire; doubtless! while we
 dream, 315
 And know not that the King of Heaven
 hath doomed
 This place our dungeon—not our safe re-
 treat
 Beyond his potent arm, to live exempt
 From Heaven's high jurisdiction, in new
 league
 Banded against his throne, but to re-
 main
 In strictest bondage, though thus far re-
 moved, 321
 Under the inevitable curb, reserved
 His captive multitude. For he, be sure,
 In highth or depth, still first and last will
 reign
 Sole king, and of his kingdom lose no
 part 325
 By our revolt, but over Hell extend
 His empire, and with iron sceptre rule
 Us here, as with his golden those in
 Heaven.
 What sit we then projecting peace and
 war?

War hath determined us,¹ and foiled with
 loss 330
 Irreparable; terms of peace yet none
 Vouchsafed or sought; for what peace will
 be given
 To us enslaved, but custody severe,
 And stripes, and arbitrary punishment
 Inflicted? and what peace can we return,
 But, to our power, hostility and hate, 336
 Untamed reluctance, and revenge, though
 slow,
 Yet ever plotting how the Conqueror least
 May reap his conquest, and may least re-
 joice
 In doing what we most in suffering feel? 340
 Nor will occasion want, nor shall we need
 With dangerous expedition to invade
 Heaven, whose high walls fear no assault
 or siege,
 Or ambush from the Deep. What if we
 find 344
 Some easier enterprise? There is a place
 (If ancient and prophetic fame in Heaven
 Err not), another World, the happy seat
 Of some new race called Man, about this
 time
 To be created like to us, though less 349
 In power and excellence, but favored more
 Of him who rules above; so was his will
 Pronounced among the gods, and, by an
 oath
 That shook Heaven's whole circumference,
 confirmed.
 Thither let us bend all our thoughts, to
 learn
 What creatures there inhabit, of what
 mould 355
 Or substance, how endued, and what their
 power,
 And where their weakness: how attempted
 best,
 By force or subtlety. Though Heaven be
 shut,
 And Heaven's high Arbitrator sit secure
 In his own strength, this place may lie ex-
 posed, 360
 The utmost border of his kingdom, left
 To their defence who hold it; here, perhaps,
 Some advantageous act may be achieved
 By sudden onset—either with Hell-fire
 To waste his whole creation, or possess 365
 All as our own, and drive, as we were
 driven,

¹ made an end of.

The puny habitants; or if not drive,
Seduce them to our party, that their God
May prove their foe, and with repenting
hand

Abolish his own works. This would sur-
pass 370

Common revenge, and interrupt his joy
In our confusion, and our joy upraise
In his disturbance; when his darling sons,
Hurled headlong to partake with us, shall
curse

Their frail original, and faded bliss— 375
Faded so soon! Advise if this be worth
Attempting, or to sit in darkness here
Hatching vain empires." Thus Beëlzebub
Pleaded his devilish counsel, first devised
By Satan, and in part proposed; for
whence, 380

But from the author of all ill, could spring
So deep a malice, to confound the race
Of mankind in one root, and Earth with
Hell

To mingle and involve, done all to spite
The great Creator? But their spite still
serves 385

His glory to augment. The bold design
Pleased highly those Infernal States, and
joy

Sparkled in all their eyes: with full assent
They vote: whereat his speech he thus
renews:—

"Well have ye judged, well ended long
debate, 390

Synod of gods! and, like to what ye are,
Great things resolved; which from the
lowest deep

Will once more lift us up, in spite of fate,
Nearer our ancient seat—perhaps in view
Of those bright confines, whence, with
neighboring arms 395

And opportune excursion, we may chance
Re-enter Heaven; or else in some mild
zone

Dwell, not unvisited of Heaven's fair light,
Secure, and at the brightening orient beam
Purge off this gloom: the soft delicious air,
To heal the scar of these corrosive fires, 401
Shall breathe her balm. But first, whom
shall we send

In search of this new world? whom shall
we find

Sufficient? who shall tempt with wander-
ing feet

The dark, unbottomed, infinite Abyss, 405

And through the palpable obscure find out
His uncouth way, or spread his acry flight,
Upborne with indefatigable wings
Over the vast abrupt, ere he arrive
The happy isle? What strength, what art,
can then 410

Suffice, or what evasion bear him safe
Through the strict senteries and stations
thick

Of Angels watching round? Here he had
need

All circumspection: and we now no less
Choice in our suffrage; for on whom we
send, 415

The weight of all, and our last hope, relies."

This said, he sat; and expectation held
His look suspense, awaiting who appeared
To second, or oppose, or undertake
The perilous attempt. But all sat mute,
Pondering the danger with deep thoughts;
and each 421

In other's countenance read his own dis-
may,

Astonished. None among the choice and
prime

Of those Heaven-warring champions could
be found

So hardy as to proffer or accept, 425
Alone, the dreadful voyage; till at last
Satan, whom now transcendent glory
raised

Above his fellows, with monarchal pride
Conscious of highest worth, unmoved thus
spake:—

"O Progeny of Heaven! Empyreal
Thrones! 430

With reason hath deep silence and demur
Seized us, though undismayed. Long is
the way

And hard, that out of Hell leads up to
Light.

Our prison strong, this huge convex of fire,
Outrageous to devour, immures us round
Ninefold; and gates of burning adamant,
Barred over us, prohibit all egress. 437

These passed, if any pass, the void pro-
found

Of unessential¹ Night receives him next,
Wide-gaping, and with utter loss of being
Threatens him, plunged in that abortive
gulf. 441

If thence he scape into whatever world
Or unknown region, what remains him less

¹ devoid of being, or essence.

Than unknown dangers and as hard escape?

But I should ill become this throne, O Peers, 445

And this imperial sovranity, adorned
With splendor, armed with power, if
aught proposed

And judged of public moment, in the shape
Of difficulty or danger, could deter
Me from attempting. Wherefore do I
assume 450

These royalties, and not refuse to reign,
Refusing to accept as great a share
Of hazard as of honor, due alike
To him who reigns, and so much to him
due

Of hazard more, as he above the rest 455
High honored sits? Go therefore, mighty
Powers,

Terror of Heaven, though fallen; intend at
home,

While here shall be our home, what best
may ease

The present misery, and render Hell
More tolerable; if there be cure or charm
To respite, or deceive, or slack the pain 461
Of this ill mansion; intermit no watch
Against a wakeful foe, while I abroad
Through all the coasts of dark destruction
seek

Deliverance for us all. This enterprise 465
None shall partake with me." Thus say-
ing, rose

The Monarch, and prevented all reply;
Prudent, lest, from his resolution raised,¹
Others among the chief might offer now,
Certain to be refused, what erst they
feared, 470

And, so refused, might in opinion stand
His rivals, winning cheap the high repute
Which he through hazard huge must earn.

But they
Dreaded not more the adventure than his
voice

Forbidding; and at once with him they
rose. 475

Their rising all at once was as the sound
Of thunder heard remote. Towards him
they bend

With awful reverence prone, and as a god
Extol him equal to the Highest in Heaven.
Nor failed they to express how much they
praised 480

¹ encouraged by his resolution.

That for the general safety he despised
His own; for neither do the Spirits damned
Lose all their virtue,—lest bad men should
boast

Their specious deeds on Earth, which glory
excites,

Or close ambition varnished o'er with zeal.

Thus they their doubtful consultations
dark 486

Ended, rejoicing in their matchless Chief:
As when from mountain-tops the dusky
clouds

Ascending, while the North-wind sleeps,
o'erspread

Heaven's cheerful face, the louring ele-
ment 490

Scowls o'er the darkened landskip snow or
shower,

If chance the radiant sun with farewell
sweet

Extend his evening beam, the fields revive,
The birds their notes renew, and bleating
herds 494

Attest their joy, that hill and valley rings.
O shame to men! Devil with devil damned

Firm concórd holds; men only disagree
Of creatures rational, though under hope
Of heavenly grace; and, God proclaiming
peace,

Yet live in hatred, enmity, and strife 500
Among themselves, and levy cruel wars,

Wasting the earth, each other to destroy:
As if (which might induce us to accord)

Man had not hellish foes enow besides,
That day and night for his destruction
wait! 505

The Stygian council thus dissolved; and
forth

In order came the grand Infernal Peers:
Midst came their mighty Paramount, and
seemed

Alone the antagonist of Heaven, nor less
Than Hell's dread Emperor, with pomp
supreme, 510

And god-like imitated state; him round
A globe of fiery Seraphim enclosed

With bright emblazonry and horrent²
arms.

Then of their session ended they bid cry
With trumpet's regal sound the great
result: 515

Toward the four winds four speedy
Cherubim

² bristling.

Put to their mouths the sounding alchymy,¹
 By harald's voice explained; the hollow
 Abyss
 Heard far and wide, and all the host of Hell
 With deafening shout returned them loud
 acclaim. 520
 Thence more at ease their minds, and
 somewhat raised
 By false presumptuous hope, the rangèd
 Powers
 Disband; and, wandering, each his several
 way
 Pursues, as inclination or sad choice
 Leads him perplexed, where he may like-
 liest find 525
 Truce to his restless thoughts, and enter-
 tain
 The irksome hours, till his great Chief
 return.
 Part on the plain, or in the air sublime,²
 Upon the wing or in swift race contend,
 As at the Olympian games or Pythian
 fields; 530
 Part curb their fiery steeds, or shun the
 goal
 With rapid wheels, or fronted brigades
 form:
 As when, to warn proud cities, war appears
 Waged in the troubled sky, and armies rush
 To battle in the clouds; before each van
 Prick forth the aery knights, and couch
 their spears, 536
 Till thickest legions close; with feats of
 arms
 From either end of Heaven the welkin
 burns.
 Others, with vast Typhœan rage, more
 fell,
 Rend up both rocks and hills, and ride the
 air 540
 In whirlwind; Hell scarce holds the wild
 uproar:
 As when Alcides, from Æchalia crowned
 With conquest, felt the envenomed robe,
 and tore
 Through pain up by the roots Thessalian
 pines,
 And Lichas from the top of Æta threw 545
 Into the Euboic sea. Others, more mild,
 Retreated in a silent valley, sing
 With notes angelical to many a harp
 Their own heroic deeds, and hapless fall
 By doom of battle, and complain that Fate

¹ trumpet.² raised.

Free Virtue should enthrall to Force or
 Chance. 551
 Their song was partial, but the harmony
 (What could it less when Spirits immortal
 sing?)
 Suspended Hell, and took with ravish-
 ment
 The thronging audience. In discourse
 more sweet 555
 (For eloquence the soul, song charms the
 sense)
 Others apart sat on a hill retired,
 In thoughts more elevate, and reasoned
 high
 Of providence, foreknowledge, will, and
 fate,
 Fixed fate, free will, foreknowledge ab-
 solute, 560
 And found no end, in wandering mazes
 lost.
 Of good and evil much they argued then,
 Of happiness and final misery,
 Passion and apathy, and glory and shame:
 Vain wisdom all, and false philosophy!—
 Yet with a pleasing sorcery could charm
 Pain for a while or anguish, and excite 567
 Fallacious hope, or arm the obdured³
 breast
 With stubborn patience as with triple steel.
 Another part, in squadrons and gross
 bands, 570
 On bold adventure to discover wide
 That dismal world, if any clime perhaps
 Might yield them easier habitation, bend
 Four ways their flying march, along the
 banks
 Of four infernal rivers, that disgorge 575
 Into the burning lake their baleful streams:
 Abhorred Styx, the flood of deadly hate;
 Sad Acheron, of sorrow, black and deep;
 Cocytus, named of lamentation loud
 Heard on the rueful stream; fierce
 Phlegeton, 580
 Whose waves of torrent fire inflame with
 rage.
 Far off from these a slow and silent stream,
 Lethe, the river of oblivion, rolls
 Her watery labyrinth, whereof who drinks
 Forthwith his former state and being
 forgets, 585
 Forgets both joy and grief, pleasure and
 pain.
 Beyond this flood a frozen continent

³ obdurate.

Lies dark and wild, beat with perpetual
storms
Of whirlwind and dire hail, which on firm
land
Thaws not, but gathers heap, and ruin
seems 590
Of ancient pile; all else deep snow and ice,
A gulf profound as that Serbonian bog
Betwixt Damiatra and Mount Casius old,
Where armies whole have sunk: the parch-
ing air
Burns froze,¹ and cold performs the effect
of fire. 595
Thither, by harpy-footed Furies haled,
At certain revolutions all the damned
Are brought; and feel by turns the bitter
change
Of fierce extremes, extremes by change
more fierce,
From beds of raging fire to starve² in ice
Their soft ethereal warmth, and there to
pine 601
Immovable, infixed, and frozen round
Periods of time,—thence hurried back to
fire.
They ferry over this Lethean sound
Both to and fro, their sorrow to augment,
And wish and struggle, as they pass, to
reach 606
The tempting stream, with one small drop
to lose
In sweet forgetfulness all pain and woe,
All in one moment, and so near the brink;
But Fate withstands, and, to oppose the
attempt 610
Medusa with Gorgonian terror guards
The ford, and of itself the water flies
All taste of living wight, as once it fled
The lip of Tantalus. Thus roving on
In confused march forlorn, the adventur-
ous bands, 615
With shuddering horror pale, and eyes
aghast,
Viewed first their lamentable lot, and
found
No rest. Through many a dark and dreary
vale
They passed, and many a region dolorous,
O'er many a frozen, many a fiery Alp, 620
Rocks, caves, lakes, fens, bogs, dens, and
shades of death—
A universe of death, which God by curse
Created evil, for evil only good;

¹ frozen.² extinguish.

Where all life dies, death lives, and Nature
breeds,
Perverse, all monstrous, all prodigious
things, 625
Abominable, inutterable, and worse
Than fables yet have feigned, or fear con-
ceived,
Gorgons, and Hydras, and Chimæras
dire.
Meanwhile the Adversary of God and
Man,
Satan, with thoughts inflamed of highest
design, 630
Puts on swift wings, and toward the gates
of Hell
Explores his solitary flight: sometimes
He scours the right hand coast, sometimes
the left;
Now shaves with level wing the deep, then
soars
Up to the fiery concave towering high. 635
As when far off at sea a fleet descried
Hangs in the clouds, by equinoctial winds
Close sailing from Bengala, or the isles
Of Ternate and Tidore, whence merchants
bring
Their spicy drugs; they on the trading
floor, 640
Through the wide Ethiopian to the Cape,
Ply stemming nightly toward the pole: so
seemed
Far off the flying Fiend. At last appear
Hell-bounds, high reaching to the horrid
roof,
And thrice threefold the gates; three folds
were brass, 645
Three iron, three of adamant rock
Impenetrable, impaled with circling fire,
Yet unconsumed. Before the gates there
sat
On either side a formidable Shape.
The one seemed woman to the waist, and
fair, 650
But ended foul in many a scaly fold,
Voluminous and vast—a serpent armed
With mortal sting. About her middle
round
A cry of Hell-hounds never-ceasing barked
With wide Cerberean mouths full loud,
and rung 655
A hideous peal; yet, when they list, would
creep,
If aught disturbed their noise, into her
womb,

And kennel there; yet there still barked
 and howled
 Within unseen. Far less abhorred than
 these 659
 Vexed Scylla, bathing in the sea that parts
 Calabria from the hoarse Trinacrian shore;
 Nor uglier follow the night-hag, when,
 called
 In secret, riding through the air she
 comes,
 Lured with the smell of infant blood, to
 dance
 With Lapland witches, while the laboring
 moon 665
 Eclipses at their charms. The other
 Shape—
 If shape it might be called that shape had
 none
 Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb;
 Or substance might be called that shadow
 seemed,
 For each seemed either—black it stood as
 Night, 670
 Fierce as ten Furies, terrible as Hell,
 And shook a dreadful dart; what seemed
 his head
 The likeness of a kingly crown had on.
 Satan was now at hand, and from his seat
 The monster moving onward came as fast,
 With horrid strides; Hell trembled as he
 strode. 676
 The undaunted Fiend what this might be
 admired¹—
 Admired, not feared—God and his Son
 except,
 Created thing naught valued he nor
 shunned—
 And with disdainful look thus first began:
 “Whence and what art thou, execrable
 Shape, 681
 That dar’st, though grim and terrible,
 advance
 Thy miscreated front athwart my way
 To yonder gates? Through them I mean
 to pass,
 That be assured, without leave asked of
 thee. 685
 Retire; or taste thy folly, and learn by
 proof,
 Hell-born, not to contend with Spirits of
 Heaven.”
 To whom the Goblin, full of wrath, re-
 plied:—

¹ wondered.

“Art thou that Traitor-Angel, art thou he
 Who first broke peace in Heaven and faith,
 till then 690
 Unbroken, and in proud rebellious arms
 Drew after him the third part of Heaven’s
 sons,
 Conjured against the Highest, for which
 both thou
 And they, outcast from God, are here con-
 demned
 To waste eternal days in woe and pain? 695
 And recon’st thou thyself with Spirits of
 Heaven,
 Hell-doomed, and breath’st defiance here
 and scorn,
 Where I reign king, and, to enrage thee
 more,
 Thy king and lord? Back to thy punish-
 ment,
 False fugitive, and to thy speed add wings,
 Lest with a whip of scorpions I pursue 701
 Thy lingering, or with one stroke of this
 dart
 Strange horror seize thee, and pangs un-
 felt before.”
 So spake the grisly Terror, and in shape,
 So speaking and so threatening, grew ten-
 fold 705
 More dreadful and deform. On the other
 side,
 Incensed with indignation, Satan stood
 Unterrified, and like a comet burned,
 That fires the length of Ophiuchus huge
 In the arctic sky, and from his horrid
 hair 710
 Shakes pestilence and war. Each at the
 head
 Levelled his deadly aim; their fatal hands
 No second stroke intend; and such a frown
 Each cast at the other as when two black
 clouds,
 With Heaven’s artillery fraught, come
 rattling on 715
 Over the Caspian—then stand front to
 front
 Hovering a space, till winds the signal blow
 To join their dark encounter in mid-air.
 So frowned the mighty combatants that
 Hell
 Grew darker at their frown; so matched
 they stood; 720
 For never but once more was either like
 To meet so great a foe. And now great
 deeds

Had been achieved, whereof all Hell had rung,
 Had not the snaky Sorceress that sat 724
 Fast by Hell-gate and kept the fatal key,
 Risen, and with hideous outcry rushed between.

"O father, what intends thy hand," she cried,

"Against thy only son? What fury, O son,
 Possesses thee to bend that mortal dart
 Against thy father's head? and know'st for whom? 730

For him who sits above, and laughs the while

At thee, ordained his drudge to execute
 Whate'er his wrath, which he calls justice,
 bids—

His wrath, which one day will destroy ye both!"

She spake, and at her words the hellish Pest 735

Forbore: then these to her Satan returned:
 "So strange thy outcry, and thy words
 so strange

Thou interposest, that my sudden hand,
 Prevented, spares to tell thee yet by deeds
 What it intends, till first I know of thee 740
 What thing thou art, thus double-formed,
 and why,

In this infernal vale first met, thou call'st
 Me father, and that phantasm call'st my son.

I know thee not, nor ever saw till now
 Sight more detestable than him and thee."

To whom thus the Portress of Hell-gate
 replied:— 746

"Hast thou forgot me, then, and do I seem
 Now in thine eye so foul? once deemed so fair

In Heaven, when at the assembly, and in sight

Of all the Seraphim with thee combined 750
 In bold conspiracy against Heaven's King,
 All on a sudden miserable pain
 Surprised thee; dim thine eyes, and dizzy
 swum

In darkness, while thy head flames thick
 and fast

Threw forth, till on the left side opening
 wide, 755

Likest to thee in shape and countenance
 bright,

Then shining heavenly fair, a goddess
 armed,

Out of thy head I sprung. Amazement
 seized

All the host of Heaven: back they recoiled
 afraid 759

At first, and called me *Sin*, and for a sign
 Portentous held me; but, familiar grown,
 I pleased, and with attractive graces won
 The most averse; thee chiefly, who full oft
 Thyself in me thy perfect image viewing
 Becam'st enamored; and such joy thou
 took'st 765

With me in secret, that my womb conceived

A growing burden. Meanwhile war arose,
 And fields were fought in Heaven; wherein
 remained

(For what could else?) to our Almighty
 Foe

Clear victory; to our part loss and rout 770
 Through all the Empyrean. Down they
 fell,

Driven headlong from the pitch of Heaven,
 down

Into this deep; and in the general fall
 I also: at which time this powerful key
 Into my hands was given, with charge to
 keep 775

These gates forever shut, which none can
 pass

Without my opening. Pensive here I sat
 Alone; but long I sat not, till my womb,
 Pregnant by thee, and now excessive
 grown,

Prodigious motion felt and rueful throes.
 At last this odious offspring whom thou
 seest, 781

Thine own begotten, breaking violent way,
 Tore through my entrails, that, with fear,
 and pain

Distorted, all my nether shape thus grew
 Transformed; but he, my inbred enemy,
 Forth issued, brandishing his fatal dart,
 Made to destroy. I fled, and cried out
Death! 787

Hell trembled at the hideous name, and
 sighed

From all her caves, and back resounded
Death!

I fled; but he pursued (though more, it
 seems, 790

Inflamed with lust than rage) and, swifter
 far,

Me overtook, his mother, all dismayed,
 And, in embraces forcible and foul

Engendering with me, of that rape begot
These yelling monsters, that with ceaseless
cry 795

Surround me, as thou saw'st, hourly conceived

And hourly born, with sorrow infinite
To me: for, when they list, into the womb
That bred them they return, and howl,
and gnaw

My bowels, their repast; then, bursting
forth 800

Afresh, with conscious terrors vex me
round,

That rest or intermission none I find.

Before mine eyes in opposition sits

Grim Death, my son and foe, who sets
them on,

And me, his parent, would full soon devour
For want of other prey, but that he knows
His end with mine involved, and knows
that I 807

Should prove a bitter morsel, and his bane,
Whenever that shall be: so Fate pronounced.

But thou, O father, I forewarn thee, shun
His deadly arrow; neither vainly hope 811
To be invulnerable in those bright arms,
Though tempered heavenly; for that mortal
dint,

Save he who reigns above, none can resist."

She finished; and the subtle Fiend his
lore 815

Soon learned, now milder, and thus answered smooth:—

"Dear daughter—since thou claim'st me
for thy sire,

And my fair son here show'st me, the dear
pledge

Of dalliance had with thee in Heaven, and
joys

Then sweet, now sad to mention, through
dire change 820

Befallen us unforeseen, unthought of—
know,

I come no enemy, but to set free

From out this dark and dismal house of
pain

Both him and thee, and all the Heavenly
host

Of Spirits that, in our just pretences
armed, 825

Fell with us from on high. From them I go
This uncouth errand sole, and one for all

Myself expose, with lonely steps to tread
The unfounded Deep, and through the
void immense

To search with wandering quest a place
foretold 830

Should be—and by concurring signs, ere
now

Created vast and round—a place of bliss
In the purlicus of Heaven; and therein
placed

A race of upstart creatures, to supply
Perhaps our vacant room, though more
removed, 835

Lest Heaven, surcharged with potent
multitude,

Might hap to move new broils. Be this,
or aught

Than this more secret, now designed, I
haste

To know; and, this once known, shall soon
return,

And bring ye to the place where thou and
Death 840

Shall dwell at ease, and up and down
unseen

Wing silently the buxom¹ air, embalmed
With odors: there ye shall be fed and filled
Immeasurably; all things shall be your
prey."

He ceased; for both seemed highly
pleased, and Death 845

Grinned horrible a ghastly smile, to hear
His famine should be filled, and blessed his
maw

Destined to that good hour. No less
rejoiced

His mother bad, and thus bespake her
sire:—

"The key of this infernal pit, by due 850
And by command of Heaven's all-powerful
King,

I keep, by him forbidden to unlock

These adamant gates; against all force
Death ready stands to interpose his dart,
Fearless to be o'ermatched by living
might. 855

But what owe I to his commands above,
Who hates me, and hath hither thrust me
down

Into this gloom of Tartarus profound,
To sit in hateful office here confined,
Inhabitant of Heaven and Heavenly-
born,— 860

¹ yielding, obedient.

Here in perpetual agony and pain,
With terrors and with clamors compassed
round

Of mine own brood, that on my bowels
feed?

Thou art my father, thou my author, thou
My being gav'st me; whom should I obey
But thee? whom follow? Thou wilt bring
me soon 866

To that new world of light and bliss, among
The gods who live at ease, where I shall
reign

At thy right hand voluptuous, as beseems
Thy daughter and thy darling, without
end." 870

Thus saying, from her side the fatal key,
Sad instrument of all our woe, she took;
And, towards the gate rolling her bestial
train,

Forthwith the huge portcullis high up-
drew,

Which but herself not all the Stygian
Powers 875

Could once have moved; then in the key-
hole turns

The intricate wards, and every bolt and
bar

Of massy iron or solid rock with ease
Unfastens. On a sudden open fly,
With impetuous recoil and jarring sound,
The infernal doors, and on their hinges
grate 881

Harsh thunder, that the lowest bottom
shook

Of Erebus. She opened; but to shut
Excelled her power: the gates wide open
stood,

That with extended wings a bannered
host, 885

Under spread ensigns marching, might
pass through

With horse and chariots ranked in loose
array;

So wide they stood, and like a furnace-
mouth

Cast forth redounding smoke and ruddy
flame.

Before their eyes in sudden view appear
The secrets of the hoary Deep, a dark 891
Illimitable ocean, without bound,
Without dimension; where length, breadth,
and highth,

And time, and place, are lost; where eldest
Night

And Chaos, ancestors of Nature, hold 895
Eternal anarchy, amidst the noise
Of endless wars, and by confusion stand.

For Hot, Cold, Moist, and Dry, four
champions fierce,

Strive here for mastery, and to battle bring
Their embryon atoms; they around the
flag 900

Of each his faction, in their several clans,
Light-armed or heavy, sharp, smooth,
swift, or slow,

Swarm populous, unnumbered as the sands
Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid soil,

Levied to side with warring winds, and
poise 905

Their lighter wings. To whom these most
adhere,

He rules a moment; Chaos umpire sits,
And by decision more embroils the fray

By which he reigns; next him, high arbiter,
Chance governs all. Into this wild Abyss,

The womb of Nature, and perhaps her
grave, 911

Of neither sea, nor shore, nor air, nor fire,
But all these in their pregnant causes
mixed,

Confusedly, and which thus must ever
fight, 914

Unless the Almighty Maker them ordain
His dark materials to create more worlds—

Into this wild Abyss the wary Fiend
Stood on the brink of Hell and looked

awhile,

Pondering his voyage; for no narrow frith
He had to cross. Nor was his ear less

pealed 920

With noises loud and ruinous (to compare
Great things with small) than when Bel-
lona storms

With all her battering engines, bent to
raise

Some capital city; or less than if this frame
Of Heaven were falling, and these elements

In mutiny had from her axle torn 926

The steadfast Earth. At last his sail-
broad vans

He spreads for flight, and, in the surging
smoke

Uplifted, spurns the ground; thence many
a league,

As in a cloudy chair, ascending rides 930

Audacious; but, that seat soon failing,
meets

A vast vacuity. All unawares,

Fluttering his pennons vain, plumb-down
 he drops
 Ten thousand fathom deep, and to this
 hour
 Down had been falling, had not, by ill
 chance, 935
 The strong rebuff of some tumultuous
 cloud,
 Instinct with fire and nitre, hurried him
 As many miles aloft. That fury stayed—
 Quenched in a boggy Syrtis,¹ neither
 sea
 Nor good dry land—nigh foundered, on
 he fares, 940
 Treading the crude consistence, half on
 foot,
 Half flying; behoves him now both oar
 and sail.
 As when a gryphon through the wilderness
 With winged course, o'er hill or moory
 dale,
 Pursues the Arimasian, who by stealth 945
 Had from his wakeful custody purloined
 The guarded gold: so eagerly the Fiend
 O'er bog or steep, through strait, rough,
 dense, or rare,
 With head, hands, wings, or feet, pursues
 his way,
 And swims, or sinks, or wades, or creeps,
 or flies. 950
 At length a universal hubbub wild
 Of stunning sounds and voices all confused,
 Borne through the hollow dark, assaults
 his ear
 With loudest vehemence. Thither he plies
 Undaunted, to meet there whatever
 Power 955
 Or Spirit of the nethermost Abyss
 Might in that noise reside, of whom to
 ask
 Which way the nearest coast of darkness
 lies
 Bordering on light; when straight behold
 the throne
 Of Chaos, and his dark pavilion spread 960
 Wide on the wasteful Deep! With him
 enthroned
 Sat sable-vested Night, eldest of things,
 The consort of his reign; and by them stood
 Orcus and Ades, and the dreaded name
 Of Demogorgon; Rumor next, and Chance.
 And Tumult, and Confusion, all em-
 broiled, 966

¹quicksand.

And Discord with a thousand various
 mouths.
 To whom Satan, turning boldly, thus:—
 “Ye Powers
 And Spirits of this nethermost Abyss,
 Chaos and ancient Night, I come no spy,
 With purpose to explore or to disturb 971
 The secrets of your realm; but, by con-
 straint
 Wandering this darksome desert, as my
 way
 Lies through your spacious empire up to
 light,
 Alone and without guide, half lost, I seek
 What readiest path leads where your
 gloomy bounds 976
 Confine² with Heaven; or if some other
 place,
 From your dominion won, the Ethereal
 King
 Possesses lately, thither to arrive
 I travel this profound. Direct my course:
 Directed, no mean recompense it brings
 To your behoof, if I that region lost, 982
 All usurpation thence expelled, reduce
 To her original darkness and your sway
 (Which is my present journey), and once
 more 985
 Erect the standard there of ancient Night.
 Yours be the advantage all, mine the re-
 venge!”
 Thus Satan; and him thus the Anarch
 old,
 With faltering speech and visage incom-
 posed,
 Answered:—“I know thee, stranger, who
 thou art: 990
 That mighty leading Angel, who of late
 Made head against Heaven's King, though
 overthrown.
 I saw and heard; for such a numerous host
 Fled not in silence through the frightened
 Deep,
 With ruin upon ruin, rout on rout, 995
 Confusion worse confounded; and Heaven-
 gates
 Poured out by millions her victorious
 bands,
 Pursuing. I upon my frontiers here
 Keep residence; if all I can will serve
 That little which is left so to defend, 1000
 Encroached on still through our intestine
 broils,

²are contiguous to.

Weakening the sceptre of old Night: first,
 Hell,
 Your dungeon, stretching far and wide
 beneath;
 Now lately Heaven and Earth, another
 world
 Hung o'er my realm, linked in a golden
 chain 1005
 To that side Heaven from whence your
 legions fell!
 If that way be your walk, you have not
 far;
 So much the nearer danger. Go, and
 speed!
 Havoc, and spoil, and ruin, are my gain."
 He ceased; and Satan stayed not to
 reply, 1010
 But, glad that now his sea should find a
 shore,
 With fresh alacrity and force renewed
 Springs upward, like a pyramid of fire,
 Into the wild expanse, and through the
 shock
 Of fighting elements, on all sides round
 Environed, wins his way; harder beset 1016
 And more endangered, than when Argo
 passed
 Through Bosphorus betwixt the justling
 rocks;
 Or when Ulysses on the larboard shunned
 Charybdis, and by the other whirlpool
 steered: 1020
 So he with difficulty and labor hard
 Moved on. With difficulty and labor he;
 But, he once passed, soon after, when Man
 fell,
 Strange alteration! Sin and Death amain
 Following his track (such was the will of
 Heaven) 1025
 Paved after him a broad and beaten way
 Over the dark Abyss, whose boiling gulf
 Tamely endured a bridge of wondrous
 length,
 From Hell continued, reaching the utmost
 orb
 Of this frail World; by which the Spirits
 perverse 1030
 With easy intercourse pass to and fro
 To tempt or punish mortals, except whom
 God and good Angels guard by special
 grace.
 But now at last the sacred influence
 Of light appears, and from the walls of
 Heaven 1035

Shoots far into the bosom of dim Night
 A glimmering dawn. Here Nature first
 begins
 Her farthest verge, and Chaos to retire,
 As from her outmost works, a broken foe,
 With tumult less and with less hostile
 din; 1040
 That Satan with less toil, and now with
 ease,
 Wafts on the calmer wave by dubious
 light,
 And, like a weather-beaten vessel, holds
 Gladly the port, though shrouds and tackle
 torn; 1044
 Or in the emptier waste, resembling air,
 Weighs his spread wings, at leisure to be-
 hold
 Far off the empyreal Heaven, extended
 wide
 In circuit, undetermined square or round,
 With opal towers, and battlements
 adorned 1049
 Of living sapphire, once his native seat;
 And fast by, hanging in a golden chain,
 This pendent World, in bigness as a star
 Of smallest magnitude close by the moon.
 Thither, full fraught with mischievous re-
 venge,
 Accurst, and in a cursed hour, he hies. 1055

From BOOK XII

THE EXPULSION FROM PARADISE

He ended, and they both descend the
 hill. 604
 Descended, Adam to the bower where Eve
 Lay sleeping ran before, but found her
 waked;
 And thus with words not sad she him re-
 ceived:—
 "Whence thou return'st and whither
 went'st I know; 610
 For God is also in sleep, and dreams advise,
 Which he hath sent propitious, some great
 good
 Presaging, since, with sorrow and heart's
 distress
 Wearied, I fell asleep. But now lead on;
 In me is no delay; with thee to go 615
 Is to stay here; without thee here to stay
 Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me
 Art all things under Heaven, all places
 thou,

Who for my wilful crime art banished
hence.

This further consolation yet secure 620
I carry hence: though all by me is lost,
Such favor I unworthy am voutsafed,
By me the Promised Seed shall all restore."

So spake our mother Eve; and Adam
heard

Well pleased, but answered not; for now
too nigh 625

The Archangel stood, and from the other
hill

To their fixed station, all in bright array,
The Cherubim descended, on the ground
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist

Risen from a river o'er the marish glides,
And gathers ground fast at the laborer's
heel 631

Homeward returning. High in front ad-
vanced,

The brandished sword of God before them
blazed,

Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat,
And vapor as the Libyan air adust,¹ 635
Began to parch that temperate clime;
whereat

In either hand the hastening Angel caught
Our lingering parents, and to the eastern
gate

Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast
To the subjected plain—then disappeared.
They, looking back, all the eastern side
beheld 641

Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,
Waved over by that flaming brand; the
gate

With dreadful faces thronged and fiery
arms.

Some natural tears they dropped, but
wiped them soon; 645

The world was all before them, where to
choose

Their place of rest, and Providence their
guide.

They, hand in hand, with wandering steps
and slow,

Through Eden took their solitary way.

From AREOPAGITICA

I deny not, but that it is of greatest
concernment in the Church and Common-
wealth, to have a vigilant eye how books

¹ scorched.

demean themselves as well as men; and
thereafter to confine, imprison, and do
sharpest justice on them as malefactors.
For books are not absolutely dead things,
but do contain a potency of life in them
to be as active as that soul was whose
progeny they are; nay, they do pre- 10
serve as in a vial the purest efficacy and
extraction of that living intellect that
bred them. I know they are as lively,
and as vigorously productive, as those
fabulous dragon's teeth; and being sown
up and down, may chance to spring up
armed men. And yet on the other hand,
unless wariness be used, as good almost
kill a man as kill a good book: who kills a
man kills a reasonable creature, God's 20
image; but he who destroys a good book,
kills reason itself, kills the image of God,
as it were in the eye. Many a man lives
a burden to the earth; but a good book is
the precious lifeblood of a master spirit,
embalmed and treasured up on purpose
to a life beyond life. 'Tis true, no age
can restore a life, whereof perhaps there
is no great loss; and revolutions of ages
do not oft recover the loss of a rejected 30
truth, for the want of which whole na-
tions fare the worse. We should be wary
therefore what persecution we raise against
the living labors of public men, how we
spill that seasoned life of man, preserved
and stored up in books; since we see a
kind of homicide may be thus committed,
sometimes a martyrdom, and if it extend
to the whole impression, a kind of mas-
sacre, whereof the execution ends not 40
in the slaying of an elemental life, but
strikes at that ethereal and fifth essence
the breath of reason itself; slays an im-
mortality rather than a life. . . . But
some will say, "What though the in-
ventors were bad, the thing for all that
may be good?" It may so; yet if that
thing be no such deep invention, but
obvious, and easy for any man to light
on, and yet best and wisest common- 50
wealths through all ages and occasions
have forborne to use it, and falsest se-
ducers and oppressors of men were the
first who took it up, and to no other pur-
pose but to obstruct and hinder the first
approach of Reformation, I am of those
who believe, it will be a harder alchemy

than Lullius ever knew, to sublimate any good use out of such an invention. Yet this only is what I request to gain [60 from this reason, that it may be held a dangerous and suspicious fruit, as certainly it deserves, for the tree that bore it, until I can dissect one by one the properties it has. . . . Books are as meats and viands are; some of good, some of evil substance; and yet God in that unapocryphal vision, said without exception, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat," leaving the choice to each man's discretion. [70 Wholesome meats to a vitiated stomach differ little or nothing from unwholesome; and best books to a naughty mind are not unapplicable to occasions of evil. Bad meats will scarce breed good nourishment in the healthiest concoction; but herein the difference is of bad books, that they to a discreet and judicious reader serve in many respects to discover, to confute, to forewarn, and to illustrate. [80 Whereof what better witness can ye expect I should produce, than one of your own now sitting in Parliament, the chief of learned men reputed in this land, Mr. Selden; whose volume of natural and national laws proves, not only by great authorities brought together, but by exquisite reasons and theorems almost mathematically demonstrative, that all opinions, yea errors, known, read, [90 and collated, are of main service and assistance toward the speedy attainment of what is truest. I conceive, therefore, that when God did enlarge the universal diet of man's body, saving ever the rules of temperance, He then also, as before, left arbitrary the dieting and repasting of our minds; as wherein every mature man might have to exercise his own leading capacity. How great a virtue [100 is temperance, how much of moment through the whole life of man! Yet God commits the managing so great a trust, without particular law or prescription; wholly to the demeanor of every grown man. And therefore when He Himself tabled the Jews from heaven, that omer, which was every man's daily portion of manna, is computed to have been more than might have well sufficed the [110 heartiest feeder thrice as many meals.

For those actions which enter into a man, rather than issue out of him, and therefore defile not, God uses not to captivate under a perpetual childhood of prescription, but trusts him with the gift of reason to be his own chooser; there were but little work left for preaching, if law and compulsion should grow so fast upon those things which heretofore [120 were governed only by exhortation. . . . Good and evil we know in the field of this world grow up together almost inseparably; and the knowledge of good is so involved and interwoven with the knowledge of evil, and in so many cunning resemblances hardly to be discerned, that those confused seeds which were imposed on Psyche as an incessant labor to cull out and sort asunder, were not [130 more intermixed. It was from out the rind of one apple tasted that the knowledge of good and evil, as two twins cleaving together, leaped forth into the world. And perhaps this is that doom which Adam fell into of knowing good and evil, that is to say of knowing good by evil. As therefore the state of man now is, what wisdom can there be to choose, what continence to forbear, without [140 the knowledge of evil? He that can apprehend and consider vice with all her baits and seeming pleasures, and yet abstain, and yet distinguish, and yet prefer that which is truly better, he is the true warfaring Christian. I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but slinks out of the race, where that immortal garland [150 is to be run for, not without dust and heat. Assuredly we bring not innocence into the world, we bring impurity much rather; that which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary. That virtue therefore which is but a youngling in the contemplation of evil, and knows not the utmost that vice promises to her followers, and rejects it, is but a blank virtue, not a pure; her whiteness is but an excre- [160 mental whiteness; which was the reason why our sage and serious poet Spenser, whom I dare be known to think a better teacher than Scotus or Aquinas, describing true temperance under the person of

Guyon, brings him in with his palmer through the cave of Mammon, and the bower of earthly bliss, that he might see and know, and yet abstain. Since therefore the knowledge and survey of [170 vice is in this world so necessary to the constituting of human virtue, and the scanning of error to the confirmation of truth, how can we more safely, and with less danger scout into the regions of sin and falsity than by reading all manner of tractates and hearing all manner of reason? And this is the benefit which may be had of books promiscuously read.

* * * * *

I lastly proceed from the no good [180 it can do, to the manifest hurt it causes, in being first the greatest discouragement and affront that can be offered to learning, and to learned men.

It was the complaint and lamentation of prelates, upon every least breath of a motion to remove pluralities, and distribute more equally Church revenues, that then all learning would be for ever dashed and discouraged. But as for that [190 opinion, I never found cause to think that the tenth part of learning stood or fell with the clergy: nor could I ever but hold it for a sordid and unworthy speech of any churchman who had a competency left him. If therefore ye be loth to dishearten heartily and discontent, not the mercenary crew of false pretenders to learning, but the free and ingenuous sort of such as evidently were born to [200 study, and love learning for itself, not for lucre, or any other end, but the service of God and of truth, and perhaps that lasting fame and perpetuity of praise which God and good men have consented shall be the reward of those whose published labors advance the good of mankind, then know, that so far to distrust the judgment and the honesty of one who hath but a common repute in learn- [210 ing, and never yet offended, as not to count him fit to print his mind without a tutor and examiner, lest he should drop a schism, or something of corruption, is the greatest displeasure and indignity to a free and knowing spirit that can be put upon him. What advantage is it to be a

man over it is to be a boy at school, if we have only escaped the ferular to come under the fescu of an *Imprimatur*? if [220 serious and elaborate writings, as if they were no more than the theme of a grammar-lad under his pedagogue must not be uttered without the cursory eyes of a temporising and extemporising licenser? He who is not trusted with his own actions, his drift not being known to be evil, and standing to the hazard of law and penalty, has no great argument to think himself reputed in the Common- [230 wealth wherein he was born, for other than a fool or a foreigner. When a man writes to the world, he summons up all his reason and deliberation to assist him; he searches, meditates, is industrious, and likely consults and confers with his judicious friends; after all which done, he takes himself to be informed in what he writes, as well as any that writ before him; if in this the most consummate act [240 of his fidelity and ripeness, no years, no industry, no former proof of his abilities, can bring him to that state of maturity, as not to be still mistrusted and suspected, unless he carry all his considerate diligence, all his midnight watchings, and expense of Palladian oil, to the hasty view of an unlesured licenser, perhaps much his younger, perhaps far his inferior in judgment, perhaps one who never knew [250 the labor of book writing; and if he be not repulsed, or slighted, must appear in print like a puny with his guardian, and his censor's hand on the back of his title to be his bail and security that he is no idiot, or seducer,—it can not be but a dishonor and derogation to the author, to the book, to the privilege and dignity of learning. . . .

Lords and Commons of England, [260 consider what nation it is whereof ye are, and whereof ye are the governors: a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious, and piercing spirit, acute to invent, subtle and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point the highest that human capacity can soar to. Therefore the studies of learning in her deepest sciences have been so ancient and so eminent among us, that writers of [270 good antiquity and ablest judgment have

been persuaded that even the school of Pythagoras and the Persian wisdom took beginning from the old philosophy of this island. And that wise and civil Roman, Julius Agricola, who governed once here for Cæsar, preferred the natural wits of Britain, before the labored studies of the French. . . . Yet that which is above all this, the favor and the love of [280] Heaven, we have great argument to think in a peculiar manner propitious and propending towards us. Why else was this nation chosen before any other, that out of her as out of Sion should be proclaimed and sounded forth the first tidings and trumpet of Reformation to all Europe? . . . But now, as our obdurate clergy have with violence demeaned the matter, we are become hitherto the latest [290] and the backwardest scholars, of whom God offered to have made us the teachers. Now once again by all concurrence of signs, and by the general instinct of holy and devout men, as they daily and solemnly express their thoughts, God is decreeing to begin some new and great period in His church, even to the reforming of Reformation itself: what does He then but reveal Himself to His serv- [300] ants, and as His manner is, first to His Englishmen: I say as His manner is, first to us, though we mark not the method of His counsels, and are unworthy. Behold now this vast city: a city of refuge, the mansion house of liberty, encompassed and surrounded with His protection. The shop of war hath not there more anvils and hammers waking, to fashion out the plates and instruments of [310] armed justice in defense of beleaguered truth, than there be pens and heads there, sitting by their studious lamps, musing, searching, revolving new notions and ideas wherewith to present, as with their homage and their fealty, the approaching Reformation; others as fast reading, trying all things, assenting to the force of reason and conviction. What could a man require more from [320] a nation so pliant and so prone to seek after knowledge? What wants there to such a towardly and pregnant soil, but wise and faithful laborers, to make a knowing people, a nation of prophets, of

sages, and of worthies? We reckon more than five months yet to harvest; there need not be five weeks; had we but eyes to lift up, the fields are white already. Where there is much desire to learn, [330] there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making. Under these fantastic terrors of sect and schism, we wrong the earnest and zealous thirst after knowledge and understanding which God hath stirred up in this city. What some lament of, we rather should rejoice at; should rather praise this pious forwardness among [340] men, to reassume the ill-deputed care of their religion into their own hands again. A little generous prudence, a little forbearance of one another, and some grain of charity might win all these diligences to join and unite in one general and brotherly search after truth, could we but forego this prelatical tradition of crowding free consciences and Christian liberties into canons and precepts of [350] men. I doubt not, if some great and worthy stranger should come among us, wise to discern the mould and temper of a people, and how to govern it, observing the high hopes and aims, the diligent alacrity of our extended thoughts and reasonings in the pursuance of truth and freedom, but that he would cry out as Pyrrhus did, admiring the Roman docility and courage, "If such were my [360] Epirots, I would not despair the greatest design that could be attempted to make a church or kingdom happy." Yet these are the men cried out against for schismatics and sectaries; as if, while the temple of the Lord was building, some cutting, some squaring the marble, others hewing the cedars, there should be a sort of irrational men who would not consider there must be many schisms [370] and many dissections made in the quarry and in the timber, ere the house of God can be built. And when every stone is laid artfully together, it cannot be united into a continuity, it can but be contiguous in this world; neither can every piece of the building be of one form; nay, rather the perfection consists in this, that out of many moderate varieties and brotherly

dissimilitudes that are not vastly [380
disproportional, arises the goodly and
the graceful symmetry that commends
the whole pile and structure. Let us
therefore be more considerate builders,
more wise in spiritual architecture, when
great reformation is expected. For now
the time seems come, wherein Moses the
great prophet may sit in heaven rejoicing
to see that memorable and glorious wish
of his fulfilled, when not only our [390
seventy elders, but all the Lord's people,
are become prophets. No marvel then
though some men, and some good men
too, perhaps, but young in goodness, as
Joshua then was, envy them. They fret,
and out of their own weakness are in
agony, lest those divisions and subdivi-
sions will undo us. The adversary again
applauds, and waits the hour; when they
have branched themselves out (saith [400
he) small enough into parties and par-
titions, then will be our time. Fool!
he sees not the firm root, out of which
we all grow, though into branches; nor
will beware until he see our small di-
vided maniples cutting through at every
angle of his ill-united and unwieldy
brigade. . . .

And now the time in special is, by priv-
ilege to write and speak what may help [410
to the further discussing of matters in
agitation. The temple of Janus with his
two controversial faces might now not
unsignificantly be set open. And though
all the winds of doctrine were let loose to
play upon the earth, so Truth be in the
field, we do injuriously by licensing and
prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let
her and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew
Truth put to the worse, in a free [420
and open encounter? Her confuting is
the best and surest suppressing. He who
hears what praying there is for light and
clearer knowledge to be sent down among
us, would think of other matters to be
constituted beyond the discipline of
Geneva, framed and fabricked already to
our hands. Yet when the new light which
we beg for shines in upon us, there be
who envy and oppose, if it come not [430
first in at their casements. What a collu-
sion is this, whenas we are exhorted by
the wise man to use diligence, to seek for

wisdom as for hidden treasures early and
late, that another order shall enjoin us
to know nothing but by statute? When
a man hath been laboring the hardest labor
in the deep mines of knowledge, hath fur-
nished out his findings in all their equipage,
drawn forth his reasons as it were [440
a battle ranged, scattered and defeated
all objections in his way, calls out his
adversary into the plain, offers him the
advantage of wind and sun, if he please,
only that he may try the matter by dint
of argument—for his opponents then
to skulk, to lay ambushments, to keep a
narrow bridge of licensing where the chal-
lenger should pass, though it be valor
enough in soldiership, is but weakness [450
and cowardice in the wars of Truth. For
who knows not that Truth is strong, next
to the Almighty? She needs no policies,
no stratagems, no licensings to make her
victorious; those are the shifts and the
defenses that error uses against her power.
Give her but room, and do not bind her
when she sleeps, for then she speaks not
true, as the old Proteus did, who spake
oracles only when he was caught and [460
bound; but then rather she turns herself
into all shapes, except her own, and per-
haps tunes her voice according to the
time, as Micaiah did before Ahab, until
she be adjured into her own likeness. Yet
it is not impossible that she may have
more shapes than one. What else is all
that rank of things indifferent, wherein
Truth may be on this side, or on the
other, without being unlike herself? [470
What but a vain shadow else is the aboli-
tion of those ordinances, that hand-writ-
ing nailed to the cross? what great pur-
chase is this Christian liberty which Paul
so often boasts of? His doctrine is, that
he who eats or eats not, regards a day or
regards it not, may do either to the Lord.
How many other things might be tolerated
in peace, and left to conscience, had we
but charity, and were it not the [480
chief stronghold of our hypocrisy to be
ever judging one another. I fear yet this
iron yoke of outward conformity hath
left a slavish print upon our necks; the
ghost of a linen decency yet haunts us.
We stumble and are impatient at the least
dividing of one visible congregation from

another, though it be not in fundamentals; and through our forwardness to suppress, and our backwardness to re- [490] cover any enthralled piece of truth out of the gripe of custom, we care not to keep truth separated from truth, which is the fiercest rent and disunion of all. We do not see that while we still affect by all means a rigid external formality, we may as soon fall again into a gross conforming stupidity, a stark and dead congealment of wood and hay and stubble forced and frozen together, which is more to the [500] sudden degenerating of a church than many subdichotomies of petty schisms. Not that I can think well of every light separation, or that all in a church is to be expected gold and silver and precious stones. It is not possible for man to sever the wheat from the tares, the good fish from the other fry; that must be the angels' ministry at the end of mortal things. Yet if all cannot be of one [510] mind, (as who looks they should be?) this doubtless is more wholesome, more prudent, and more Christian, that many be tolerated, rather than all compelled. I mean not tolerated popery, and open superstition, which, as it extirpates all religions and civil supremacies, so itself should be extirpate, provided first that all charitable and compassionate means be used to win and regain the weak [520] and the misled: that also which is impious or evil absolutely either against faith or manners, no law can possibly permit that intends not to unlaw itself. But those neighboring differences, or rather indifferences, are what I speak of, whether in some point of doctrine or of discipline, which though they may be many, yet need not interrupt the unity of Spirit, if we could but find among us [530] the bond of peace. In the meanwhile if any one would write, and bring his helpful hand to the slow-moving reformation which we labor under, if Truth have spoken to him before others, or but seemed at least to speak, who hath so bejesuited us that we should trouble that man with asking license to do so worthy a deed? and not consider this, that if it come to prohibiting, there is not aught [540] more likely to be prohibited than truth

itself; whose first appearance to our eyes bleared and dimmed with prejudice and custom, is more unsightly and unplaussible than many errors, even as the person is of many a great man slight and contemptible to see to. And what do they tell us vainly of new opinions, when this very opinion of theirs, that none must be heard but whom they like, is the [550] worst and newest opinion of all others, and is the chief cause why sects and schisms do so much abound, and true knowledge is kept at distance from us, besides yet a greater danger which is in it? For when God shakes a kingdom with strong and healthful commotions to a general reforming, 'tis not untrue that many sectaries and false teachers are then busiest in seducing; but yet [560] more true it is, that God then raises to His own work men of rare abilities, and more than common industry, not only to look back and revise what hath been taught heretofore, but to gain further and go on, some new enlightened steps in the discovery of truth. For such is the order of God's enlightening His church, to dispense and deal out by degrees His beam, so as our earthly eyes may [570] best sustain it. Neither is God appointed and confined, where and out of what place these His chosen shall be first heard to speak; for He sees not as man sees, chooses not as man chooses, lest we should devote ourselves again to set places, and assemblies, and outward callings of men; planting our faith one while in the old Convocation House, and another while in the Chapel at West- [580] minster; when all the faith and religion that shall be there canonized, is not sufficient without plain convictionment, and the charity of patient instruction, to supple the least bruise of conscience, to edify the meanest Christian, who desires to walk in the Spirit, and not in the letter of human trust, for all the number of voices that can be there made;—no, though Harry VII himself there, with [590] all his liege toms about him, should lend them voices from the dead, to swell their number. . . .

And as for regulating the Press, let no man think to have the honor of advising

ye better than yourselves have done in that order published next before this, "that no book be printed, unless the printer's and the author's name, or at least the printer's, be registered." Those [600 which otherwise come forth, if they be found mischievous and libelous, the fire and the executioner will be the timeliest and the most effectual remedy that man's prevention can use. For this authentic Spanish policy of licensing books, if I have said aught, will prove the most unlicensed book itself within a short while; and was the immediate image of a Star Chamber decree to that purpose made [610 in those very times when that court did the rest of those her pious works, for which she is now fallen from the stars with Lucifer. Whereby ye may guess what kind of state prudence, what love of the people, what care of religion or good manners, there was at the contriving, although with singular hypocrisy it pretended to bind books to their good behavior. . . . But of these sophisms [620 and elenchs of merchandise I skill not. This I know, that errors in a good government and in a bad are equally almost incident; for what magistrate may not be misinformed, and much the sooner, if liberty of printing be reduced into the power of a few? But to redress willingly and speedily what hath been erred, and in highest authority to esteem a plain advertisement more than others have [630 done a sumptuous bribe, is a virtue (honored Lords and Commons) answerable to your highest actions, and whereof none can participate but greatest and wisest men.

SAMUEL PEPYS (1633-1703)

From his DIARY

Jan. 1, 1660 (Lord's day). This morning (we living lately in the garret), I rose, put on my suit with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them. Went to Mr. Gunning's chapel at Exeter House, where he made a very good sermon. Dined at home in the garret, where my wife dressed the re-

mains of a turkey, and in the doing of it she burned her hand. I stayed at [10 home all the afternoon, looking over my accounts; then went with my wife to my father's, and in going observed the great posts which the City have set up at the Conduit in Fleet Street.

Mar. 5th. To Westminster by water, only seeing Mr. Pinkney at his own house, where he showed me how he had always kept the lion and unicorn, in the back of his chimney, bright, in expectation of the King's coming again. At home I found Mr. Hunt, who told me how the Parliament had voted that the Covenant be printed and hung in churches again. Great hopes of the King's coming again. To bed.

6th. Everybody now drinks the King's health without any fear, whereas before it was very private that a man dare do it.

22nd. To Westminster, and received my warrant of Mr. Blackburne to be secretary to the two Generals of the Fleet.

23rd. My Lord, Captain Isham, Mr. Thomas, John Crewe, W. Howe, and I in a hackney to the Tower, where the barges stayed for us; my Lord and the Captain in one, and W. Howe and I, &c., in the other, to the Long Reach, where the *Swiftsure* lay at anchor; (in our way we [40 saw the great breach which the late high water had made, to the loss of many £1,000 to the people about Limehouse). Soon as my Lord on board, the guns went off bravely from the ships. And a little while after comes the Vice-Admiral Lawson, and seemed very respectful to my Lord, and so did the rest of the commanders of the frigates that were thereabouts. I to the cabin allotted for [50 me, which was the best that any had that belonged to my Lord.

May 1. To-day I hear they were very merry at Deal setting up the King's flag upon one of their maypoles, and drinking his health upon their knees in the streets, and firing the guns, which the soldiers of the castle threatened, but durst not oppose.

2nd. In the morning at a breakfast [60 of radishes in the Purser's cabin. After that, to writing till dinner. At which

time comes Dunne from London, with letters that tell us the welcome news of the Parliament's votes yesterday, which will be remembered for the happiest May-day that hath been many a year to England. The King's letter was read in the House, wherein he submits himself and all things to them, as to an Act of [70 Oblivion to all, unless they shall please to except any.

13th (Lord's day). Trimmed in the morning, after that to the cook's room with Mr. Sheply, the first time I was there this voyage. Then to the quarter-deck, upon which the tailors and painters were at work cutting out some pieces of yellow cloth into the fashion of a crown and C. R. and put it upon a fine sheet, and that [80 into the flag instead of the State's arms; which, after dinner, was finished and set up, after it had been shown to my Lord, who liked it so well as to bid me give the tailors 20s. among them for doing of it.

23rd. The Doctor and I waked very merry, only my eye was very red and ill in the morning from yesterday's hurt. In the morning came infinity of people on board from the King to go along [90 with him. . . . The King, with the two Dukes, and Queen of Bohemia, Princess Royal, and Prince of Orange, came on board, where I in their coming in kissed the King's, Queen's, and Princess's hands. . . . Infinite shooting off of the guns, and that in a disorder on purpose, which was better than if it had been otherwise. . . . After dinner the King and duke altered the names of some [100 of the ships; viz., the *Naseby* into *Charles*; the *Richard*, *James*; the *Speaker*, *Mary*; the *Dunbar*, the *Henry*. . . . All the afternoon the King walked here and there, up and down (quite contrary to what I thought him to have been), very active and stirring. Upon the quarter-deck he fell into discourse of his escape from Worcester, where it made me ready to weep to hear the stories that he told [110 of his difficulties that he had passed through, as his travelling four days and three nights on foot, every step up to his knees in dirt, with nothing but a green coat and a pair of country breeches on, and a pair of country shoes that made

him so sore all over his feet that he could scarce stir. Yet he was forced to run away from a miller and other company that took them for rogues. His sitting [120 at table at one place, where the master of the house, that had not seen him in eight years, did know him, but kept it private; when at the same table there was one that had been of his own regiment at Worcester, could not know him, but made him drink the King's health, and said that the King was at least four fingers higher than he. At another place he was by some servants of the house made to drink, [130 that they might know him not to be a Roundhead, which they swore he was. In another place at his inn, the master of the house, as the King was standing with his hands upon the back of a chair by the fireside, kneeled down and kissed his hand, privately, saying that he would not ask him who he was, but bid God bless him whither he was going. . . . Under sail all night, and most glorious weather. [140

24th. Up, and make myself as fine as I could, with the linen stockings on and wide canons that I bought the other day at Hague. Extraordinary press of noble company, and great mirth all the day.

25th. By the morning we were come close to the land, and everybody made ready to get on shore. The King and the two dukes did eat their breakfast before they went, and there being set some [150 ship's diet before them, only to show them the manner of the ship's diet, they eat of nothing else but peas and pork and boiled beef. I had Mr. Darcy in my cabin; and Dr. Clerke, who eat with me, told me how the King had given £50 to Mr. Sheply for my Lord's servants, and £500 among the officers and common men of the ship. I spoke with the Duke of York about business, who called me Pepys by [160 name, and upon my desire did promise me his future favor. Great expectation of the King's making some knights, but there was none. About noon . . . went in a boat by ourselves, and so got on shore when the King did, who was received by General Monk with all imaginable love and respect at his entrance upon the land of Dover. Infinite the crowd of people, and the horsemen, citizens, and noble- [170

men of all sorts. The Mayor of the town came and gave him his white staff, the badge of his place, which the King did give him again. The Mayor also presented him from the town a very rich Bible, which he took, and said it was the thing that he loved above all things in the world.

September 2nd, 1666 (Lord's day).

Some of our maids sitting up late [180 last night to get things ready against our feast today, Jane called us up about three in the morning, to tell us of a great fire they saw in the city. So I rose and slipped on my night-gown, and went to her window, and thought it to be on the back side of Mark Lane at the farthest; but, being unused to such fires as followed, I thought it far enough off; and so went to bed again and to sleep. About [190 seven rose again to dress myself, and there looked out at the window, and saw the fire not so much as it was and further off. So to my closet to set things to rights after yesterday's cleaning. By and by Jane comes and tells me that she hears that above three hundred houses have been burned down tonight by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down all Fish Street, by London Bridge. So I made [200 myself ready presently, and walked to the Tower, and there got up upon one of the high places, Sir J. Robinson's little son going up with me; and there I did see the houses at that end of the bridge all on fire, and an infinite great fire on this and the other side the end of the bridge; which, among other people, did trouble me for poor little Michell and our Sarah on the bridge. So down, with my heart full [210 of trouble, to the Lieutenant of the Tower, who tells me that it begun this morning in the King's baker's house in Pudding Lane, and that it hath burned St. Magnus's Church and most part of Fish Street already. So I down to the waterside, and there got a boat, and through bridge, and there saw a lamentable fire. Poor Michell's house, as far as the Old Swan, already burned that way, and the [220 fire running further, that in a very little time it got as far as the Steel-yard, while I was there. Everybody endeavoring to

remove their goods, and flinging into the river, or bringing them into lighters that lay off; poor people staying in their houses as long as till the very fire touched them, and then running into boats, or clambering from one pair of stairs by the waterside to another. And among [230 other things, the poor pigeons, I perceive, were loth to leave their houses, but hovered about the windows and balconies till they were some of them burned, their wings, and fell down. Having stayed, and in an hour's time seen the fire rage every way, and nobody, to my sight, endeavoring to quench it, but to remove their goods, and leave all to the fire, and having seen it get as far as the Steel- [240 yard, and the wind mighty high and driving it into the city, and every thing, after so long a drought, proving combustible, even the very stones of the churches, and among other things the poor steeple by which pretty Mrs. — lives, and whereof my old schoolfellow Elborough is parson, taken fire in the very top, and there burned till it fell down: I to Whitehall (with a gentleman with me who de- [250 sired to go off from the Tower, to see the fire, in my boat); to Whitehall, and there up to the King's closet in the Chapel, where people come about me, and I did give them an account dismayed them all, and word was carried in to the King. So I was called for, and did tell the King and Duke of York what I saw, and that unless his Majesty did command houses to be pulled down nothing could stop [260 the fire. They seemed much troubled, and the King commanded me to go to my Lord Mayor from him, and command him to spare no houses, but to pull down before the fire every way. . . . Here meeting with Captain Cock, I in his coach, which he lent me, and Creed with me, to Paul's, and there walked along Watling Street, as well as I could; every creature coming away loaden with [270 goods to save, and here and there sick people carried away in beds. Extraordinary good goods carried in carts and on backs. At last met my Lord Mayor in Canning Street, like a man spent, with a handkercher about his neck. To the King's message he cried, like a fainting

woman, "Lord! what can I do? I am spent: people will not obey me. I have been pulling down houses; but the fire [280 overtakes us faster than we can do it." That be needed no more soldiers; and that for himself, he must go and refresh himself, having been up all night. So he left me, and I him, and walked home, seeing people all almost distracted, and no manner of means used to quench the fire. The houses, too, so very thick thereabouts, and full of matter for burning, as pitch and tar, in Thames Street; and [290 warehouses of oil, and wines, and brandy, and other things. . . .

Met with the King and Duke of York in their barge, and with them to Queenhithe, and there called Sir Richard Browne to them. Their order was only to pull down houses apace, and so below bridge at the waterside; but little was or could be done, the fire coming upon them so fast. Good hopes there was of stop- [300 ping it at the Three Cranes above, and at Buttolph's wharf below bridge, if care be used; but the wind carries it into the city, so as we know not by the waterside what it do there. River full of lighters and boats taking in goods, and good goods swimming in the water. . . . So near the fire as we could for smoke; and all over the Thames, with one's face in the wind, you were almost burned [310 with a shower of fire-drops. This is very true; so as houses were burned by these drops and flakes of fire,—three or four, nay, five or six houses, one from another. When we could endure no more upon the water, we to a little ale-house on the Bankside, over against the Three Cranes, and there stayed till it was dark almost, and saw the fire grow; and as it grew darker, appeared more and more, and [320 in corners and upon steeples, and between churches and houses, as far as we could see up the hill of the city, in a most horrid, malicious, bloody flame, not like the fine flame of an ordinary fire. . . . We stayed till, it being darkish, we saw the fire as only one entire arch of fire from this to the other side the bridge, and in a bow up the hill for an arch of above a mile long: it made me weep to see [330 it. . . . So home with a sad heart.

3rd. About four o'clock in the morning, my Lady Batten sent me a cart to carry away all my money, and plate, and best things, to Sir W. Rider's at Bednall Green. Which I did, riding myself in my night-gown in the cart; and Lord! to see how the streets and the highways are crowded with people running and riding, and getting of carts at any rate to [340 fetch away things. . . . At night lay down a little upon a quilt of W. Hewer's in the office, all my own things being packed up or gone; and after me my poor wife did the like, we having fed upon the remains of yesterday's dinner, having no fire nor dishes, nor any opportunity of dressing anything.

4th. Up by break of day to get away the remainder of my things; which [350 I did by a lighter at the Iron Gate; and my hands so few, that it was the afternoon before we could get them all away. . . . Sir W. Batten not knowing how to remove his wine, did dig a pit in the garden, and laid it in there; and I took the opportunity of laying all the papers of my office that I could not otherwise dispose of. And in the evening Sir W. Penn and I did dig another, and put our wine in it, and [360 I my Parmezan cheese, as well as my wine and some other things. . . . Now begins the practise of blowing up of houses in Tower Street, those next the Tower; which at first did frighten people more than anything; but it stopped the fire where it was done, it bringing down the houses to the ground in the same places they stood; and then it was easy to quench what little fire was in it, though it [370 kindled nothing almost.

January 2nd, 1667. Up, I, and walked to Whitehall to attend the Duke of York, as usual. My wife up, and with Mrs. Penn to walk in the fields to frost-bite themselves. . . . With Sir W. Penn by coach to the Temple, and there 'light and eat a bit at an ordinary by, and then alone to the King's House, and there saw *The Custom of the Country*, the second [380 time of its being acted, wherein Knipp does the Widow well; but, of all the plays that ever I did see, the worst—having neither plot, language, nor anything in

the earth that is acceptable; only Knipp sings a little song admirably. But fully the worst play that ever I saw or I believe shall see. So away home, much displeased for the loss of so much time, and dis-obliging my wife by being there with- [390 out her. So, by link, walked home, it being mighty cold but dry, yet bad walking because very slippery with the frost and treading. Home and to my chamber to set down my journal, and then to thinking upon establishing my vows against the next year, and so to supper and to bed.

August 19th. Up, and at the office all the morning very busy. Towards [400 noon I to Westminster about some tallies at the Exchequer, and then straight home again and dined, and then to sing with my wife with great content, and then I to the office again, where busy, and then out and took coach and to the Duke of York's House, all alone, and there saw *Sir Martin Mar-all* again, though I saw him but two days since, and do find it the most comical play that ever I saw in my [410 life.

20th. Up, and to my chamber to set down my journal for the last three days, and then to the office, where busy all the morning. At noon home to dinner, and then with my wife abroad; set her down at the Exchange, and I to St. James's. . . . Thence with my Lord Bruncker to the Duke's playhouse (telling my wife so at the 'Change, where I left her), and [420 there saw *Sir Martin Mar-all* again, which I have now seen three times, and it hath been acted but four times, and still find it a very ingenious play, and full of variety. So home, and to the office, where my eyes would not suffer me to do anything by candle-light, and so called my wife and walked in the garden. She mighty pressing for a new pair of cuffs, which I am against the laying out [430 of money upon yet, which makes her angry. So home to supper and to bed.

21st. Up, and my wife and I fell out about the pair of cuffs, which she hath a mind to have to go to see the ladies dancing tomorrow at Betty Turner's school; and do vex me so that I am resolved to deny them her. However, by-and-by a

way was found that she had them, and I well satisfied, being unwilling to let [440 our difference grow higher upon so small an occasion and frowardness of mine.

22nd. After dinner with my Lord Bruncker and his mistress to the King's playhouse, and there saw *The Indian Emperor*; where I find Nell come again, which I am glad of; but was most infinitely displeased with her being put to act the Emperor's daughter, which is a great and serious part, which she [450 do most basely. The rest of the play, though pretty good, was not well acted by most of them, methought; so that I took no great content in it.

October 19th. At the office all the morning, where very busy, and at noon home to a short dinner, being full of my desire of seeing my Lord Orrery's new play this afternoon at the King's House, *The Black Prince*, the first time it is [460 acted; where, though we come by two o'clock, yet there was no room in the pit, but we were forced to go into one of the upper boxes, at 4s. a piece, which is the first time I ever sat in a box in my life. And in the same box come, by and by, behind me, my Lord Berkeley and his lady; but I did not turn my face to them to be known, so that I was excused from giving them my seat; and this pleas- [470 ure I had, that from this place the scenes do appear very fine indeed, and much better than in the pit. The house infinite full, and the King and Duke of York was there. . . . So after having done business at the office, I home to supper and to bed.

LOYALIST STALL BALLADS

TO MAKE CHARLES A GREAT KING

To make Charles a great King, and give him no power;
To honor him much, and not obey him an hour;
To provide for his safety, and take away his Tower;
And to prove all is sweet, be it never so sour:
The new order of the land, and the land's new order.

To secure men their lives, liberties, and
estates,
By arbitrary power, as it pleaseth the
fates;
To take away taxes by imposing great
rates,
And to make us a plaster by breaking our
pates:
The new order, etc.

To sit and consult for ever and a day; 10
To counterfeit treason by a Parliamentary
way;
To quiet the land by a tumultuous sway;
New plots to devise, then them to betray:
The new order, etc.

To send them their zealots to Heaven in a
string,
Who else to confusion religion will bring, 15
Who say the Lord's Prayer is a Popish
thing,
Who pray for themselves, but leave out
their King:
The new order of the land, and the
land's new order.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

If, Charles, thou wilt but be so kind
To give us leave to take our mind
Of all thy store,
When we, thy loyal subjects, find
Thou 'ast nothing left to give behind, 5
We'll ask no more.

First, for religion, it is meet
We make it go upon new feet;
'Twas lame before;
One from Geneva would be sweet: 10
Let Warwick fetch't home with his fleet,
We'll ask no more.

Let us a consultation call
Of honest men, but Roundheads all, 15
God knows wherefore;
Allow them but a place to bawl
'Gainst Bishops' courts canonical,
We'll ask no more.

Reform each University,
And in them let no learning be, 20
A great eye-sore;

From hence make Rome's Arminians flee,
That none may have free-will but we,
We'll ask no more.

In this we will not be denied, 25
Because in you we'll not confide,
We know wherefore;
The citizens their plate provide;
Do you but send in yours beside,
We'll ask no more. 30

THE CHARACTER OF A ROUND- HEAD

What creature's this with his short hairs,
His little band, and huge long ears,
That this new faith hath founded?
The Puritans were never such;
The Saints themselves had ne'er so much; 5
Oh, such a knave's a Roundhead.

What's he that doth the Bishops hate,
And count their calling reprobate,
Cause by the Pope propounded,
And say a zealous cobbler's better 10
Than he that studieth every letter?
Oh, such a knave's a Roundhead.

What's he that doth high treason say
As often as his yea and nay,
And wish the King confounded; 15
And dare maintain that Master Pym
Is fitter for the crown than him?
Oh, such a knave's a Roundhead.

COME, DRAWER, SOME WINE

Come, Drawer, some wine,
Or we'll pull down the sign,
For we are all jovial compounders:
We'll make the house ring
With healths to our King, 5
And confusion light on his confounders.

And next, who e'er sees,
We drink on our knees,
To the King,—may he thirst that re-
pines;
A fig for those traitors 10
That look to our waters,
They have nothing to do with our
wines.

And next, here's a cup
To the Queen; fill it up!
Were it poison we would make an end
on't; 15

May Charles and she meet,
And tread under feet
Both Presbyter and Independent.

To the Prince, and all others,
His sisters and brothers, 20
As low in condition as high-born,
We'll drink this, and pray
That shortly they may
See all them that wrongs them at
Tyburn.

And next, here's three bowls 25
To all gallant souls
That for the King did, and will venture;
May they flourish when those
That are his, and their foes,
Are hanged, and rammed down to the
center. 30

And next, let a glass
To our undoers pass,
Attended with two or three curses;
May plagues sent from hell
Stuff their bodies as well 35
As the cavaliers' coin doth their purses!

THE PROTECTING BREWER

A brewer may be a burgess grave,
And carry the matter so fine and so brave,
That he the better may play the knave,
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may be a Parliament-man, 5
For there the knavery first began;
And brew most cunning plots he can,
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may put on a *Nabal* face,
And march to the wars with so much
grace, 10
That he may get a Captain's place,
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may speak so wondrous well
That he may rise strange things to tell,
And so to be made a Colonel, 15
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may make his foes to flee,
And raise his fortunes so that he
Lieutenant-General may be,
Which nobody can deny. 20

A brewer he may be all in all,
And raise his powers both great and small,
That he may be a Lord-General,
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may be as bold as Hector, 25
When he has drunk off his cup of nectar,
And a brewer may be a Lord Protector,
Which nobody can deny.

Now here remains the strangest thing,
How this brewer about his liquor did
bring, 30
To be an Emperor or a King,
Which nobody can deny.

A brewer may do what he will,
And rob the church and state, to sell
His soul unto the devil of hell, 35
Which nobody can deny!

THE LAWYERS' LAMENTATION FOR THE LOSS OF CHARING CROSS

Undone! undone! the lawyers cry;
They ramble up and down;
We know not the way to Westminster
Now Charing Cross is down.
Then fare thee well, old Charing
Cross, 5
Then fare thee well, old stump;
It was a thing set up by the King,
And so pulled down by the Rump.

And when they came to the bottom of the
Strand,
They were all at a loss; 10
This is not the way to Westminster,
We must go by Charing Cross.
Then fare thee well, etc.

The Parliament did vote it down,
As a thing they thought most fitting,
For fear it should fall, and so kill 'em
all, 15
In the House as they were sitting.
Then fare thee well, etc.

The Whigs they do affirm and say,
 To Popery it was bent;
 For what I know it might be so,
 For to church it never went.
 Then fare thee well, etc.

20

This cursed Rump rebellious crew
 They were so damned hard-hearted,
 They passed a vote that Charing Cross
 Should be taken down and carted.
 Then fare thee well, etc.

Now, Whigs, I would advise you all, 25
 'Tis what I'd have you do;
 For fear the King should come again,
 Pray pull down Tyburn too!
 Then fare thee well, old Charing
 Cross,
 Then fare thee well, old stump; 30
 It was a thing set up by the
 King,
 And so pulled down by the
 Rump.

THE AGE OF CLASSICISM

JOHN DRYDEN (1631-1700)

ABSALOM AND ACHITOPHEL

In pious times, ere priestcraft did begin,
Before polygamy was made a sin,
When man on many multiplied his kind,
Ere one to one was cursedly confined,— 4

* * * * *

Then Israel's monarch, . . .
. . . wide as his command,
Scattered his Maker's image through the
land. 10

* * * * *

Of all this numerous progeny was none
So beautiful, so brave, as Absalon.

* * * * *

Early in foreign fields he won renown
With kings and states allied to Israel's
crown;

In peace the thoughts of war he could re-
move, 25
And seemed as he were only born for
love.

Whate'er he did was done with so much
ease,

In him alone 'twas natural to please;
His motions all accompanied with grace,
And Paradise was opened in his face. 30
With secret joy indulgent David viewed
His youthful image in his son renewed;
To all his wishes nothing he denied,
And made the charming Annabel his
bride.

What faults he had (for who from faults is
free?) 35

His father could not, or he would not see.
Some warm excesses, which the law for-
bore,

Were construed youth that purged by
boiling o'er;

And Amnon's murder by a specious name
Was called a just revenge for injured
fame. 40

Thus praised and loved, the noble youth
remained,

While David undisturbed in Sion reigned.
But life can never be sincerely blest;
Heaven punishes the bad, and proves the
best.

The Jews, a headstrong, mobdy, murmur-
ing race 45

As ever tried the extent and stretch of
grace;

God's pampered people, whom, debauched
with ease,

No king could govern nor no God could
please;

Gods they had tried of every shape and
size

That godsmiths could produce or priests
devise; 50

These Adam-wits, too fortunately free,
Began to dream they wanted liberty;

And when no rule, no precedent, was
found

Of men by laws less circumscribed and
bound,

They led their wild desires to woods and
caves, 55

And thought that all but savages were
slaves.

They who, when Saul was dead, without a
blow

Made foolish Ishbosheth the crown forego;
Who banished David did from Hebron

bring,

And with a general shout proclaimed him
King; 60

Those very Jews who at their very best
Their humor more than loyalty expressed,

Now wondered why so long they had
obeyed

An idol monarch whom their hands had
made;

Thought they might ruin him they could
create, 65

Or melt him to that golden calf, a State.

But these were random bolts; no formed
design

Nor interest made the factious crowd to
join:

The sober part of Israel, free from stain,
Well knew the value of a peaceful reign; 70

And looking backward with a wise affright
Saw seams of wounds dishonest to the
sight,

In contemplation of whose ugly scars
They cursed the memory of civil wars.
The moderate sort of men, thus qualified,
Inclined the balance to the better side; 76
And David's mildness managed it so well,
The bad found no occasion to rebel.

But when to sin our biased nature leans,
The careful Devil is still at hand with
means, 80

And providently pimps for ill desires:
The good old cause, revived, a plot re-
quires;

Plots true or false are necessary things
To raise up commonwealths and ruin
king's.

The inhabitants of old Jerusalem 85
Were Jebusites; the town so called from
them,

And theirs the native right.
But when the chosen people grew more
strong,

The rightful cause at length became the
wrong;

And every loss the men of Jebus bore, 90
They still were thought God's enemies the
more.

Thus worn and weakened, well or ill con-
tent,

Submit they must to David's government:
Impoverished and deprived of all com-
mand,

Their taxes doubled as they lost their land;
And, what was harder yet to flesh and
blood, 96

Their gods disgraced, and burnt like com-
mon wood.

This set the heathen priesthood in a flame,
For priests of all religions are the same.

Of whatsoe'er descent their godhead be,
Stock, stone, or other homely pedigree, 101

In his defense his servants are as bold,
As if he had been born of beaten gold.

The Jewish rabbins, though their enemies,
In this conclude them honest men and
wise. 105

For 'twas their duty, all the learned think,
To espouse his cause by whom they eat
and drink.

From hence began that Plot, the nation's
curse,

Bad in itself, but represented worse,

Raised in extremes, and in extremes de-
cried, 110

With oaths affirmed, with dying vows de-
nied,

Not weighed or winnowed by the multi-
tude,

But swallowed in the mass, unchewed and
crude.

Some truth there was, but dashed and
brewed with lies

To please the fools and puzzle all the
wise: 115

Succeeding times did equal folly call

Believing nothing or believing all.

The Egyptian rites the Jebusites em-
braced,

Where gods were recommended by their
taste;

Such savory deities must needs be good 120
As served at once for worship and for food.

By force they could not introduce these
gods,

For ten to one in former days was odds:
So fraud was used, the sacrificer's trade;

Fools are more hard to conquer than per-
suade. 125

Their busy teachers mingled with the
Jews

And raked for converts even the court and
stews:

Which Hebrew priests the more unkindly
took,

Because the fleece accompanies the flock.
Some thought they God's anointed meant

to slay 130
By guns, invented since full many a day:

Our author swears it not; but who can
know

How far the Devil and Jebusites may go?
This plot, which failed for want of com-
mon sense,

Had yet a deep and dangerous conse-
quence; 135

For as, when raging fevers boil the blood,
The standing lake soon floats into a flood,

And every hostile humor which before
Slept quiet in its channels bubbles o'er;

So several factions from this first ferment
Work up to foam and threat the govern-
ment. 141

Some by their friends, more by themselves
thought wise,

Opposed the power to which they could
not rise.

Some had in courts been great and, thrown
from thence,

Like fiends were hardened in impenitence.
Some, by their Monarch's fatal mercy
grown 146

From pardoned rebels kinsmen to the
throne,

Were raised in power and public office
high;

Strong bands, if bands ungrateful men
could tie.

Of these the false Achitophel was first, 150
A name to all succeeding ages curst:

For close designs and crooked counsels fit;
Sagacious, bold, and turbulent of wit;

Restless, unfixed in principles and place;
In power unpleased, impatient of dis-
grace: 155

A fiery soul, which, working out its way,
Fretted the pigmy body to decay,

And o'er-informed the tenement of clay.
A daring pilot in extremity;

Pleased with the danger when the waves
went high, 160

He sought the storms; but, for a calm un-
fit,

Would steer too nigh the sands, to boast
his wit.

Great wits are sure to madness near allied,
And thin partitions do their bounds divide;

Else why should he, with wealth and honor
blest, 165

Refuse his age the needful hours of rest?
Punish a body which he could not please,

Bankrupt of life, yet prodigal of ease?
And all to leave what with his toil he won

To that unfeathered two-legg'd thing, a
son, 170

Got, while his soul did huddled notions
try,

And born a shapeless lump, like anarchy.
In friendship false, implacable in hate,

Resolved to ruin or to rule the state;
To compass this the triple bond he broke,

The pillars of the public safety shook, 176
And fitted Israel for a foreign yoke;

Then, seized with fear, yet still affecting
fame,

Usurped a patriot's all-atoning name.
So easy still it proves in factious times 180

With public zeal to cancel private crimes.
How safe is treason, and how sacred ill,

Where none can sin against the people's
will!

Where crowds can wink and no offence be
known,

Since in another's guilt they find their
own! 185

Yet fame deserved no enemy can grudge;
The statesman we abhor, but praise the

judge.
In Israel's courts ne'er sat an Abbethdin

With more discerning eyes or hands more
clean,

Unbribed, unsought, the wretched to re-
dress, 190

Swift of despatch and easy of access.
Oh! had he been content to serve the crown

With virtues only proper to the gown,
Or had the rankness of the soil been freed

From cockle that oppressed the noble
seed, 195

David for him his tuneful harp had
strung

And Heaven had wanted one immortal
song.

But wild Ambition loves to slide, not
stand,

And Fortune's ice prefers to Virtue's land.
Achitophel, grown weary to possess 200

A lawful fame and lazy happiness,
Disdained the golden fruit to gather

free,
And lent the crowd his arm to shake the

tree.
Now, manifest¹ of crimes contrived long

since,
He stood at bold defiance with his prince,

Held up the buckler of the people's
cause 206

Against the crown, and skulked behind the
laws.

The wished occasion of the plot he takes;
Some circumstances finds, but more he

makes;
By buzzing emissaries fills the ears 210

Of listening crowds with jealousies and
fears

Of arbitrary counsels brought to light,
And proves the king himself a Jebusite.

Weak arguments! which yet he knew full
well

Were strong with people easy to rebel. 215
For, governed by the moon, the giddy

Jews
Tread the same track when she the prime

renews;

¹ evidently guilty.

And once in twenty years, their scribes
record,

By natural instinct they change their lord.
Achitophel still wants a chief, and none 220
Was found so fit as warlike Absalon.

Not that he wished his greatness to create,
(For politicians neither love nor hate)

But, for he knew his title not allowed
Would keep him still depending on the
crowd, 225

That kingly power, thus ebbing out,
might be

Drawn to the dregs of a democracy.

Him he attempts with studied arts to
please,

And sheds his venom in such words as
these: 229

"Auspicious prince, at whose nativity
Some royal planet ruled the southern sky,
Thy longing country's darling and desire,
Their cloudy pillar and their guardian fire,
Their second Moses, whose extended wand
Divides the seas and shows the promised
land, 235

Whose dawning day in every distant age
Has exercised the sacred prophet's rage,
The people's prayer, the glad diviner's
theme,

The young men's vision and the old men's
dream,

Thee savior, thee the nation's vows con-
fess, 240

And, never satisfied with seeing, bless:

Swift unspoken pomps thy steps pro-
claim,

And stammering babes are taught to lisp
thy name.

How long wilt thou the general joy detain,
Starve and defraud the people of thy
reign? 245

* * * * *

Had thus old David, from whose loins you
spring,

Not dared, when Fortune called him to be
King,

At Gath an exile he might still remain,
And Heaven's anointing oil had been in
vain. 265

Let his successful youth your hopes engage,
But shun the example of declining age.

Behold him setting in his western skies,
The shadows lengthening as the vapors
rise;

He is not now as when on Jordan's sand 270
The joyful people thronged to see him
land,

Covering the beach and blackening all the
strand;

* * * * *

All sorts of men, by my successful arts
Abhorring kings, estrange their altered
hearts 290

From David's rule; and 'tis the general
cry:

'Religion, commonwealth, and liberty.'

If you, as champion of the public good,
Add to their arms a chief of royal blood,
What may not Israel hope, and what ap-
plause 295

Might such a general gain by such a
cause?

Not barren praise alone, that gaudy
flower,

Fair only to the sight, but solid power;
And nobler is a limited¹ command,

Given by the love of all your native land,
Than a successive title, long and dark, 301
Drawn from the mouldy rolls of Noah's
ark."

What cannot praise effect in mighty
minds,

When flattery soothes, and when ambi-
tion blinds? 304

Desire of power, on earth a vicious weed,
Yet sprung from high is of celestial seed;

In God 'tis glory, and when men aspire,
'Tis but a spark too much of heavenly fire.

The ambitious youth, too covetous of fame,
Too full of angels' metal in his frame, 310

Unwarily was led from virtue's ways,
Made drunk with honor, and debauched

with praise.
Half loth, and half consenting to the ill,
(For loyal blood within him struggled still,)

He thus replied: "And what pretence
have I 315

To take up arms for public liberty?
My father governs with unquestioned

right,
The faith's defender, and mankind's de-
light;

Good, gracious, just, observant of the
laws;

And Heaven by wonders has espoused his
cause. 320

¹ appointed.

Whom has he wronged in all his peaceful reign?

Who sues for justice to his throne in vain?
What millions has he pardoned of his foes,
Whom just revenge did to his wrath ex-
pose? 324

Mild, easy, humble, studious of our good,
Inclined to mercy and averse from blood.
If mildness ill with stubborn Israel suit,
His crime is God's beloved attribute.

* * * * *

Why then should I, encouraging the bad,
Turn rebel and run popularly mad? 336
Were he a tyrant, who by lawless might
Oppressed the Jews and raised the Jebu-
site,

Well might I mourn; but nature's holy
bands

Would curb my spirit and restrain my
hands; 340

The people might assert their liberty,
But what was right in them were crime in
me.

His favor leaves me nothing to require,
Prevents my wishes, and outruns desire;
What more can I expect while David lives?
All but his kingly diadem he gives: 346
And that"—But here he paused, then
sighing said,

"Is justly destined for a worthier head;
For when my father from his toils shall
rest, 349

And late augment the number of the blest,
His lawful issue shall the throne ascend,
Or the collateral line, where that shall
end.

His brother, though oppressed with vulgar
spite,

Yet dauntless and secure of native right,
Of every royal virtue stands possessed, 355
Still dear to all the bravest and the best.

His courage goes, his friends his truth pro-
claim,

His loyalty the King, the world his fame.
His mercy even the offending crowd will
find,

For sure he comes of a forgiving kind. 360
Why should I then repine at Heaven's
decree,

Which gives me no pretence to royalty?
Yet oh, that Fate, propitiously inclined,
Had raised my birth, or had debased my
mind; 364

To my large soul not all her treasure lent,
And then betrayed it to a mean descent!
I find, I find my mounting spirits bold,
And David's part disdains my mother's
mould.

Why am I scanted by a niggard birth? 369
My soul disdains the kindred of her earth,
And, made for empire, whispers me within,
'Desire of greatness is a god-like sin.'

Him staggering so when Hell's dire
agent found,

While fainting virtue scarce maintained
her ground,

He pours fresh forces in, and thus re-
plies: 375

"The eternal God, supremely good and
wise,

Imparts not these prodigious gifts in vain.
What wonders are reserved to bless your
reign!

Against your will your arguments have
shown 379

Such virtue's only given to guide a throne.
Not that your father's mildness I condemn,
But manly force becomes the diadem.

'Tis true he grants the people all they
crave,

And more, perhaps, than subjects ought
to have;

For lavish grants suppose a monarch tame,
And more his goodness than his wit pro-
claim. 386

* * * * *

Doubt not; but, when he most affects the
frown,

Commit a pleasing rape upon the crown.
Secure his person to secure your cause: 475
They who possess the Prince possess the
laws."

He said, and this advice above the rest
With Absalom's mild nature suited best;
Unblamed of life (ambition set aside,)
Not stained with cruelty nor puffed with
pride, 480

How happy had he been if Destiny
Had higher placed his birth or not so high!
His kingly virtues might have claimed a
throne

And blessed all other countries but his
own;

But charming greatness since so few re-
fuse, 485

'Tis juster to lament him than accuse.

Strong were his hopes a rival to remove,
With blandishments to gain the public
love,

To head the faction while their zeal was
hot,

And popularly prosecute the plot. 490

To further this, Achitophel unites

The malcontents of all the Israelites,

Whose differing parties he could wisely
join

For several ends to serve the same design;

The best, (and of the princes some were
such,) 495

Who thought the power of monarchy too
much;

Mistaken men, and patriots in their
hearts,

Not wicked, but seduced by impious arts;

By these the springs of property were bent

And wound so high they cracked the
government. 500

The next for interest sought to embroil
the state

To sell their duty at a dearer rate,

And make their Jewish markets of the
throne,

Pretending public good to serve their own.

Others thought kings an useless heavy
load, 505

Who cost too much and did too little good.

These were for laying honest David by

On principles of pure good husbandry.

With them joined all the haranguers of the
throng,

That thought to get preferment by the
tongue. 510

* * * * *

A numerous host of dreaming saints suc-
ceed

Of the true old enthusiastic breed: 530

'Gainst form and order they their power
employ,

Nothing to build, and all things to de-
stroy.

But far more numerous was the herd of
such

Who think too little, and who talk too
much.

These out of mere instinct, they knew not
why, 535

Adored their fathers' God and property,

And, by the same blind benefit of Fate,

The Devil and the Jebusite did hate:

Born to be saved, even in their own de-
spite,

Because they could not help believing
right. 540

Such were the tools; but a whole Hydra
more

Remains, of sprouting heads too long to
score.

Some of their chiefs were princes of the
land:

In the first rank of these did Zimri stand;

A man so various that he seemed to be 545
Not one, but all mankind's epitome:

Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong,

Was everything by starts and nothing
long;

But in the course of one revolving moon

Was chymist, fiddler, statesman, and
buffoon; 550

Then all for women, painting, rhyming,
drinking,

Besides ten thousand freaks that died in
thinking.

Blest madman, who could every hour
employ

With something new to wish or to enjoy!

Railing and praising were his usual
themes, 555

And both (to show his judgment) in ex-
tremes:

So over violent, or over civil,

That every man with him was God or
Devil.

In squandering wealth was his peculiar art:

Nothing went unrewarded but desert. 560

Beggared by fools whom still he found too
late,

He had his jest, and they had his estate.

He laughed himself from Court; then
sought relief

By forming parties, but could ne'er be
chief:

For spite of him, the weight of business fell

On Absalom and wise Achitophel: 566

Thus wicked but in will, of means bereft,

He left not faction, but of that was left.

* * * * *

Shimei, whose youth did early promise bring

Of zeal to God, and hatred to his King, 586

Did wisely from expensive sins refrain,

And never broke the Sabbath but for gain;

Nor ever was he known an oath to vent,

Or curse, unless against the government.

Thus heaping wealth by the most ready
way 591
Among the Jews, which was to cheat and
pray,
The city, to reward his pious hate
Against his master, chose him magistrate.
His hand a vare¹ of justice did uphold, 595
His neck was loaded with a chain of gold.
During his office treason was no crime;
The sons of Belial had a glorious time;
For Shimei, though not prodigal of pelf,
Yet loved his wicked neighbor as himself.
When two or three were gathered to de-
claim 601
Against the monarch of Jerusalem,
Shimei was always in the midst of them:
And, if they cursed the King when he was
by,
Would rather curse than break good com-
pany. 605
If any durst his factious friends accuse,
He packed a jury of dissenting Jews;
Whose fellow-feeling in the godly cause
Would free the suffering saint from human
laws:
For laws are only made to punish those 610
Who serve the King, and to protect his foes.
If any leisure time he had from power,
Because 'tis sin to misemploy an hour,
His business was by writing to persuade
That kings were useless and a clog to
trade: 615
And that his noble style he might refine,
No Rechabite more shunned the fumes of
wine.
Chaste were his cellars, and his shrieval
board
The grossness of a city feast abhorred:
His cooks with long disuse their trade
forgot; 620
Cool was his kitchen, though his brains
were hot.
Such frugal virtue malice may accuse,
But sure 'twas necessary to the Jews:
For towns once burnt such magistrates
require
As dare not tempt God's providence by
fire. 625
* * * * *

Surrounded thus with friends of every
sort,
Deluded Absalom forsakes the court;

¹ wand.

Impatient of high hopes, urged with re-
nown,
And fired with near possession of a crown.
The admiring crowd are dazzled with sur-
prise, 686
And on his goodly person feed their eyes.
His joy concealed, he sets himself to show,
On each side bowing popularly low;
His looks, his gestures, and his words he
frames, 690
And with familiar ease repeats their names.
Thus formed by nature, furnished out
with arts,
He glides unfelt into their secret hearts.
* * * * *
Youth, beauty, graceful action, seldom
fail,
But common interest always will prevail;
And pity never ceases to be shown 725
To him who makes the people's wrongs his
own.
The crowd that still believe their kings
oppress,
With lifted hands their young Messiah
bless;
Who now begins his progress to ordain
With chariots, horsemen, and a numerous
train; 730
From east to west his glories he displays,
And, like the sun, the promised land sur-
veys.
Fame runs before him like the morning
star,
And shouts of joy salute him from afar;
Each house receives him as a guardian god,
And consecrates the place of his abode. 736
* * * * *
Oh foolish Israel! never warned by ill!
Still the same bait, and circumvented still!
Did ever men forsake their present ease,
In midst of health imagine a disease, 756
Take pains contingent mischiefs to foresee,
Make heirs for monarchs, and for God
decree?
What shall we think? Can people give
away
Both for themselves and sons their native
sway? 760
Then they are left defenceless to the sword
Of each unbounded, arbitrary lord;
And laws are vain by which we right enjoy,
If kings unquestioned can those laws
destroy.

Yet if the crowd be judge of fit and just,
And kings are only officers in trust, 766
Then this resuming covenant was declared
When kings were made, or is forever
barred.

If those who gave the sceptre could not tie
By their own deed their own posterity, 770
How then could Adam bind his future
race?

How could his forfeit on mankind take
place?

Or how could heavenly justice damn us all
Who ne'er consented to our father's fall?
Then kings are slaves to those whom they
command, 775

And tenants to their people's pleasure
stand.

Add that the power, for property allowed,
Is mischievously seated in the crowd;

For who can be secure of private right,
If sovereign sway may be dissolved by
might? 780

Nor is the people's judgment always true:
The most may err as grossly as the few;
And faultless kings run down by common
cry

For vice, oppression, and for tyranny.

* * * * *

Now what relief can righteous David
bring? 811

How fatal 'tis to be too good a king!
Friends he has few, so high the madness
grows;

Who dare be such must be the people's
foes.

Yet some there were even in the worst of
days; 815

Some let me name, and naming is to praise.

In this short file Barzillai first appears,
Barzillai, crowned with honor and with
years.

Long since the rising rebels he withstood
In regions waste beyond the Jordan's
flood: 820

Unfortunately brave to buoy the state,
But sinking underneath his master's fate.
In exile for his godlike prince he mourned,
For him he suffered, and with him re-
turned.

The court he practised, not the courtier's
art: 825

Large was his wealth, but larger was his
heart,

Which well the noblest objects knew to
choose,

The fighting warrior, and recording Muse.
His bed could once a fruitful issue boast;
Now more than half a father's name is
lost. 830

His eldest hope, with every grace adorned,
By me, so Heaven will have it, always
mourned

And always honored, snatched in man-
hood's prime

By unequal fates and Providence's crime:
Yet not before the goal of honor won, 835
All parts fulfilled of subject and of
son;

Swift was the race, but short the time to
run.

* * * * *

Indulge one labor more, my weary
Muse,

For Amiel: who can Amiel's praise refuse?
Of ancient race by birth, but nobler yet 900
In his own worth, and without title great;
The Sanhedrin long time as chief he ruled,
Their reason guided, and their passion
cooled:

So dexterous was he in the Crown's de-
fence,

So formed to speak a loyal nation's
sense, 905

That, as their band was Israel's tribes in
small,

So fit was he to represent them all.

Now rasher charioteers the seat ascend,
Whose loose careers his steady skill com-
mend:

They, like unequal ruler of the day, 910
Misguide the seasons and mistake the
way,

While he, withdrawn, at their mad labor
smiles,

And safe enjoys the Sabbath of his toils.

These were the chief, a small but faithful
band

Of worthies in the breach who dared to
stand 915

And tempt the united fury of the land.
With grief they viewed such powerful
engines bent

To batter down the lawful government.

A numerous faction, with pretended
frights,

In Sanhedrins to plume the regal rights,

The true successor from the court re-
 moved; 921
 The plot by hiring witnesses improved.
 These ills they saw, and, as their duty
 bound,
 They showed the King the danger of the
 wound;
 That no concessions from the throne
 would please, 925
 But lenitives fomented the disease;
 That Absalom, ambitious of the crown,
 Was made the lure to draw the people
 down;
 That false Achanitophel's pernicious hate
 Had turned the plot to ruin Church and
 State; 930
 The council violent, the rabble worse;
 That Shimei taught Jerusalem to curse.
 With all these loads of injuries op-
 pressed,
 And long revolving in his careful breast
 The event of things, at last, his patience
 tired, 935
 Thus from his royal throne, by Heaven
 inspired,
 The godlike David spoke; with awful fear
 His train their Maker in their master hear.
 "Thus long have I, by native mercy
 swayed,
 My wrongs dissembled, my revenge de-
 layed; 940
 So willing to forgive the offending age,
 So much the father did the king assuage.
 But now so far my clemency they slight,
 The offenders question my forgiving right.
 That one was made for many, they con-
 tend; 945
 But 'tis to rule, for that's a monarch's end.
 They call my tenderness of blood my fear,
 Though manly tempers can the longest
 bear.
 Yet since they will divert my native course,
 'Tis time to show I am not good by force.
 Those heaped affronts that haughty sub-
 jects bring 951
 Are burdens for a camel, not a king.
 Kings are the public pillars of the State,
 Born to sustain and prop the nation's
 weight:
 If my young Samson will pretend a call 955
 To shake the column, let him share the
 fall.
 But oh that yet he would repent and live!
 How easy 'tis for parents to forgive!

With how few tears a pardon might be won
 From nature, pleading for a darling son!
 Poor pitied youth, by my paternal care 961
 Raised up to all the height his frame could
 bear!
 Had God ordained his fate for empire born,
 He would have given his soul another turn:
 Gulled with a patriot's name, whose
 modern sense 965
 Is one that would by law supplant his
 prince;
 The people's brave, the politician's tool,
 Never was patriot yet but was a fool.
 Whence comes it that religion and the
 laws
 Should more be Absalom's than David's
 cause? 970
 His old instructor, ere he lost his place,
 Was never thought endued with so much
 grace.
 Good heavens, how faction can a patriot
 paint!
 My rebel ever proves my people's saint.
 Would they impose an heir upon the
 throne? 975
 Let Sanhedrins be taught to give their
 own.
 A king's at least a part of government,
 And mine as requisite as their consent.
 Without my leave a future king to choose
 Infracts a right the present to depose. 980
 True, they petition me to approve their
 choice;
 But Esau's hands suit ill with Jacob's
 voice.
 My pious subjects for my safety pray,
 Which to secure, they take my power away.
 From plots and treasons Heaven preserve
 my years, 985
 But save me most from my petitioners,
 Unsatiated as the barren womb or grave;
 God cannot grant so much as they can
 crave.
 What then is left but with a jealous eye
 To guard the small remains of royalty? 990
 The law shall still direct my peaceful sway,
 And the same law teach rebels to obey.

* * * * *

By their own arts, 'tis righteously decreed,
 Those dire artificers of death shall bleed.
 Against themselves their witnesses will
 swear 1012
 Till, viper-like, their mother-plot they tear,

And suck for nutriment that bloody gore
Which was their principle of life before.
Their Belial with their Beelzebub will
fight; 1016
Thus on my foes my foes shall do me right.
Nor doubt the event; for factious crowds
engage

In their first onset all their brutal rage.
Then let them take an unresisted course;
Retire and traverse, and delude their force:
But when they stand all breathless, urge
the fight, 1022
And rise upon them with redoubled might:
For lawful power is still superior found,
When long driven back at length it stands
the ground." 1025

He said. The Almighty, nodding, gave
consent;
And peals of thunder shook the firmament.
Henceforth a series of new time began;
The mighty years in long procession ran;
Once more the godlike David was restored,
And willing nations knew their lawful lord.

MAC FLECKNOE

All human things are subject to decay,
And, when Fate summons, monarchs must
obey.

This Flecknoe found, who, like Augustus,
young
Was called to empire, and had governed
long;

In prose and verse, was owned without
dispute, 5
Through all the realms of Nonsense, ab-
solute.

This aged prince, now flourishing in peace,
And blest with issue of a large increase,
Worn out with business, did at length de-
bate

To settle the succession of the state; 10
And, pondering which of all his sons was
fit

To reign and wage immortal war with
wit,
Cried, "'Tis resolved, for Nature pleads
that he

Should only rule who most resembles me.
Shadwell alone my perfect image bears, 15
Mature in dulness from his tender years;
Shadwell alone of all my sons is he
Who stands confirmed in full stupidity.

The rest to some faint meaning make pre-
tence,

But Shadwell never deviates into sense. 20
Some beams of wit on other souls may fall,
Strike through, and make a lucid interval;
But Shadwell's genuine night admits no
ray,

His rising fogs prevail upon the day.
Besides, his goodly fabric fills the eye 25
And seems designed for thoughtless maj-
esty,

Thoughtless as monarch oaks that shade
the plain,

And, spread in solemn state, supinely reign.
Heywood and Shirley were but types of
thee,

Thou last great prophet of tautology. 30
Even I, a dunce of more renown than they,
Was sent before but to prepare thy way,
And coarsely clad in Norwich druggel¹
came

To teach the nations in thy greater name.
My warbling lute, the lute I whilom
strung, 35

When to King John of Portugal I sung,
Was but the prelude to that glorious day
When thou on silver Thames didst cut
thy way,

With well-timed oars before the royal
barge,
Swelled with the pride of thy celestial
charge, 40

And, big with hymn, commander of an
host;

The like was ne'er in Epsom blankets
tossed.

Methinks I see the new Arion sail,
The lute still trembling underneath thy nail.
At thy well-sharpened thumb from shore
to shore 45

The treble squeaks for fear, the basses roar;

* * * * *

About thy boat the little fishes throng,
As at the morning toast that floats along.
Sometimes, as prince of thy harmonious
band, 51

Thou wield'st thy papers in thy threshing
hand.

St. André's feet ne'er kept more equal
time,

Not even the feet of thy own *Psyche's*
rhyme:

¹ coarse cloth.

Though they in number as in sense excel,
 So just, so like tautology, they fell 56
 That, pale with envy, Singleton forswore,
 The lute and sword which he in triumph
 bore,
 And vowed he ne'er would act Valerius
 more."

Here stopped the good old sire and wept
 for joy, 60
 In silent raptures of the hopeful boy.
 All arguments, but most his plays, per-
 suade

That for absolute dulness he was made.
 Close to the walls which fair Augusta
 bind, 64
 (The fair Augusta much to fears inclined,)
 An ancient fabric raised to inform the sight
 There stood of yore, and Barbican it high;
 A watch-tower once, but now, so fate or-
 dains,

Of all the pile an empty name remains; 69
 * * * * *

Near these a Nursery erects its head
 Where queens are formed and future
 heroes bred, 75
 Where unfledged actors learn to laugh and
 cry,
 Where infant trulls their tender voices try,
 And little Maximins the gods defy.
 Great Fletcher never treads in buskins here,
 Nor greater Jonson dares in socks appear;
 But gentle Simkin just reception finds 81
 Amidst this monument of vanished minds;
 Pure clinches¹ the suburban muse affords,
 And Panton waging harmless war with
 words.

Here Flecknoe, as a place to fame well
 known, 85
 Ambitiously designed his Shadwell's
 throne.

For ancient Dekker prophesied long since
 That in this pile should reign a mighty
 prince,

Born for a scourge of wit and flail of sense,
 To whom true dulness should some
Psyches owe, 90

But worlds of *Misers* from his pen should
 flow;

Humorists and hypocrites it should pro-
 duce,

Whole Raymond families and tribes of
 Bruce.

¹ puns.

Now Empress Fame had published the
 renown
 Of Shadwell's coronation through the
 town. 95

Roused by report of fame, the nations
 meet

From near Bunhill and distant Watling-
 street.

No Persian carpets spread the imperial
 way,

But scattered limbs of mangled poets lay;

* * * * *

Much Heywood, Shirley, Ogleby, there
 lay; 102

But loads of Shadwell almost choked the
 way.

Bilked stationers for yeomen stood pre-
 pared,

And Herringman was captain of the guard.
 The hoary prince in majesty appeared, 106

High on a throne of his own labors reared.
 At his right hand our young Ascanius

sate,
 Rome's other hope and pillar of the state.

His brows thick fogs instead of glories
 grace, 110

And lambent dulness played around his
 face.

As Hannibal did to the altars come,
 Sworn by his sire a mortal foe to Rome;

So Shadwell swore, nor should his vow be
 vain,

That he till death true dulness would
 maintain; 115

And, in his father's right and realm's de-
 fence,

Ne'er to have peace with wit nor truce
 with sense.

The king himself the sacred unction made.
 As king by office and as priest by trade.

In his sinister hand, instead of ball, 120
 He placed a mighty mug of potent ale;

Love's Kingdom to his right he did con-
 vey,

At once his sceptre and his rule of sway;
 Whose righteous lore the prince had prac-
 tised young

And from whose loins recorded *Psyche*
 sprung. 125

His temples, last, with poppies were o'er-
 spread,

That nodding seemed to consecrate his
 head.

Just at that point of time, if fame not lie,
On his left hand twelve reverend owls did
fly.

So Romulus, 'tis sung, by Tiber's brook,
Presage of sway from twice six vultures
took. 131

The admiring throng loud acclamations
make,

And omens of his future empire take.
The sire then shook the honors of his
head,

And from his brows damps of oblivion
shed 135

Full on the filial dulness: long he stood,
Repelling from his breast the raging god;
At length burst out in this prophetic mood:
"Heavens bless my son! from Ireland let
him reign

To far Barbadoes on the western main; 140
Of his dominion may no end be known,
And greater than his father's be his throne;
Beyond *Love's Kingdom* let him stretch his
pen!"

He paused, and all the people cried
"Amen."

Then thus continued he: "My son, ad-
vance 145

Still in new impudence, new ignorance.
Success let others teach; learn thou from
me

Pangs without birth, and fruitless indus-
try.

Let *Virtuosos* in five years be writ,
Yet not one thought accuse thy toil of wit.
Let gentle George in triumph tread the
stage, 151

Make Dorimant betray, and Loveit rage;
Let Cully, Cockwood, Fopling, charm the
pit,

And in their folly show the writer's wit.
Yet still thy fools shall stand in thy de-
fence, 155

And justify their author's want of sense.
Let them be all by thy own model made
Of dulness, and desire no foreign aid,
That they to future ages may be known,
Not copies drawn, but issue of thy own. 160
Nay, let thy men of wit too be the same,
All full of thee, and differing but in name.
But let no alien Sedley interpose
To lard with wit thy hungry Epsom prose.
And when false flowers of rhetoric thou
wouldst cull, 165

Trust nature; do not labor to be dull;

But write thy best, and top; and in each
line

Sir Formal's oratory will be thine.

Sir Formal, though unsought, attends thy
quill,

And does thy northern dedications fill. 170
Nor let false friends seduce thy mind to
fame

By arrogating Jonson's hostile name;
Let father Flecknoe fire thy mind with
praise,

And uncle Ogleby thy envy raise.

Thou art my blood, where Jonson has no
part: 175

What share have we in nature or in art?

Where did his wit on learning fix a brand,
And rail at arts he did not understand?

Where made he love in Prince Nicander's
vein,

Or swept the dust in Psyche's humble
strain? 180

* * * * *

When did his muse from Fletcher scenes
purloin,

As thou whole Etheredge dost transfuse
to thine? 184

But so transfused as oil on water's flow,
His always floats above, thine sinks below.
This is thy province, this thy wondrous
way,

New humors to invent for each new play:
This is that boasted bias of thy mind,
By which one way to dulness 'tis inclined,
Which makes thy writings lean on one
side still, 191

And, in all changes, that way bends thy
will.

Nor let thy mountain belly make pretence
Of likeness; thine's a tympany of sense.

A tun of man in thy large bulk is writ, 195
But sure thou art but a kilderkin of wit.

Like mine, thy gentle numbers feebly
creep;

Thy tragic muse gives smiles; thy comic,
sleep.

With whate'er gall thou set'st thyself to
write,

Thy inoffensive satires never bite; 200
In thy felonious heart though venom lies,
It does but touch thy Irish pen, and dies.

Thy genius calls thee not to purchase
fame

In keen iambics, but mild anagram.

Leave writing plays, and choose for thy
 command 205
 Some peaceful province in Acrostic Land.
 There thou mayest wings display and
 altars raise,
 And torture one poor word ten thousand
 ways;
 Or, if thou wouldst thy different talents
 suit,
 Set thy own songs, and sing them to thy
 lute." 210
 He said, but his last words were scarcely
 heard,
 For Bruce and Longville had a trap pre-
 pared,
 And down they sent the yet declaiming
 bard.
 Sinking, he left his drugget robe behind,
 Borne upwards by a subterranean wind.
 The mantle fell to the young prophet's
 part 216
 With double portion of his father's art.

*From THE HIND AND THE
 PANTHER*

A milk-white Hind, immortal and un-
 changed,
 Fed on the lawns, and in the forest ranged;
 Without unspotted, innocent within,
 She feared no danger, for she knew no
 sin.
 Yet had she oft been chased with horns
 and hounds 5
 And Scythian shafts, and many winged
 wounds
 Aimed at her heart; was often forced to
 fly,
 And doomed to death, though fated not
 to die.
 Not so her young; for their unequal line
 Was hero's make, half human, half di-
 vine. 10
 Their earthly mold obnoxious was to
 fate,
 The immortal part assumed immortal
 state.
 Of these a slaughtered army lay in blood,
 Extended o'er the Caledonian wood,
 Their native walk; whose vocal blood
 arose 15
 And cried for pardon on their perjured
 foes.

Their fate was fruitful, and the sanguine
 seed,
 Endued with souls, increased the sacred
 breed.
 So captive Israel multiplied in chains,
 A numerous exile, and enjoyed her pains. 20
 With grief and gladness mixed, their
 mother viewed
 Her martyred offspring and their race re-
 newed;
 Their corps to perish, but their kind to
 last,
 So much the deathless plant the dying fruit
 surpassed.
 Panting and pensive now she ranged
 alone, 25
 And wandered in the kingdoms once her
 own.
 The common hunt, though from their rage
 restrained
 By sovereign power, her company dis-
 dained;
 Grinned as they passed, and with a glaring
 eye
 Gave gloomy signs of secret enmity. 30
 'Tis true she bounded by, and tripped so
 light
 They had not time to take a steady sight;
 For truth has such a face and such a mien
 As to be loved needs only to be seen.
 The bloody Bear, an Independent
 beast 35
 Unlicked to form, in groans her hate ex-
 pressed.
 Among the timorous kind the quaking
 Hare
 Professed neutrality, but would not swear.
 Next her the buffoon Ape, as atheists
 use,
 Mimicked all sects, and had his own to
 choose; 40
 Still when the Lion looked, his knees he
 bent,
 And paid at church a courtier's compli-
 ment.
 The bristled Baptist Boar, impure as he,
 But whitened with the foam of sanctity,
 With fat pollutions filled the sacred
 place, 45
 And mountains levelled in his furious rage:
 So first rebellion founded was in grace.
 But since the mighty ravage which he
 made
 In German forests had his guilt betrayed,

With broken tusks and with a borrowed
 name, 50
 He shunned the vengeance and concealed
 the shame,
 So lurked in sects unseen. With greater
 guile
 False Reynard fed on consecrated spoil;
 The graceless beast by Athanasius first
 Was chased from Nice; then, by Socinus
 nursed, 55
 His impious race their blasphemy re-
 newed,
 And nature's king through nature's optics
 viewed.
 Reversed, they viewed him lessened to
 their eye,
 Nor in an infant could a God descry.
 New swarming sects to this obliquely
 tend; 60
 Hence they began, and here they all will
 end.

* * * * *

The Panther, sure the noblest next the
 Hind,
 And fairest creature of the spotted kind;
 Oh, could her inborn stains be washed
 away,
 She were too good to be a beast of prey! 330
 How can I praise or blame, and not of-
 fend,
 Or how divide the frailty from the friend?
 Her faults and virtues lie so mixed, that
 she
 Nor wholly stands condemned, nor wholly
 free.
 Then, like her injured Lion, let me speak;
 He cannot bend her and he would not
 break. 336
 Unkind already, and estranged in part,
 The Wolf begins to share her wandering
 heart.
 Though unpolluted yet with actual ill,
 She half commits who sins but in her
 will. 340
 If, as our dreaming Platonists report,
 There could be spirits of a middle sort,
 Too black for heaven and yet too white
 for hell,
 Who just dropped half-way down, nor
 lower fell;
 So poised, so gently she descends from
 high, 345
 It seems a soft dismissal from the sky.

Her house not ancient, whatsoe'er pre-
 tence
 Her clergy heralds make in her defence;
 A second century not half-way run,
 Since the new honors of her blood be-
 gun. 350

A SONG FOR ST. CECILIA'S DAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1687

From harmony, from heavenly harmony,
 This universal frame began:
 When Nature underneath a heap
 Of jarring atoms lay,
 And could not heave her head, 5
 The tuneful voice was heard from high:
 "Arise, ye more than dead."

Then cold and hot and moist and dry
 In order to their stations leap,
 And Music's power obey. 10
 From harmony, from heavenly harmony,
 This universal frame began:
 From harmony to harmony
 Through all the compass of the notes it
 ran,
 The diapason closing full in Man. 15

What passion cannot Music raise and quell!
 When Jubal struck the chorded shell,
 His listening brethren stood around,
 And, wondering, on their faces fell
 To worship that celestial sound. 20
 Less than a god they thought there could
 not dwell
 Within the hollow of that shell
 That spoke so sweetly and so well.
 What passion cannot Music raise and quell!

The trumpet's loud clangor 25
 Excites us to arms
 With shrill notes of anger
 And mortal alarms.
 The double, double, double beat
 Of the thundering drum 30
 Cries: "Hark! the foes come;
 Charge, charge, 'tis too late to retreat!"

The soft complaining flute
 In dying notes discovers
 The woes of hopeless lovers, 35
 Whose dirge is whispered by the warbling
 lute.

Sharp violins proclaim
 Their jealous pangs and desperation,
 Fury, frantic indignation,
 Depth of pains, and height of passion, 40
 For the fair, disdainful dame.

But oh! what art can teach,
 What human voice can reach
 The sacred organ's praise?
 Notes inspiring holy love, 45
 Notes that wing their heavenly ways
 To mend the choirs above.
 Orpheus could lead the savage race;
 And trees unrooted left their place,
 Sequacious of the lyre; 50
 But bright Cecilia raised the wonder
 higher:
 When to her organ vocal breath was given,
 An angel heard, and straight appeared,
 Mistaking earth for heaven.

GRAND CHORUS

As from the power of sacred lays 55
 The spheres began to move,
 And sung the great Creator's praise
 To all the blessed above;
 So when the last and dreadful hour
 This crumbling pageant shall devour, 60
 The trumpet shall be heard on high,
 The dead shall live, the living die,
 And Music shall untune the sky.

ALEXANDER'S FEAST; OR, THE
 POWER OF MUSIC

A SONG IN HONOR OF ST. CECILIA'S DAY,
 1697

'Twas at the royal feast for Persia won
 By Philip's warlike son:
 Aloft in awful state
 The godlike hero sate
 On his imperial throne: 5
 His valiant peers were placed around;
 Their brows with roses and with myrtles
 bound:
 (So should desert in arms be crowned.)
 The lovely Thais, by his side,
 Sate like a blooming Eastern bride, 10
 In flower of youth and beauty's pride.
 Happy, happy, happy pair!
 None but the brave,
 None but the brave,
 None but the brave deserves the fair. 15

CHORUS

Happy, happy, happy pair!
 None but the brave,
 None but the brave,
 None but the brave deserves the fair.

Timotheus, placed on high 20
 Amid the tuneful choir,
 With flying fingers touched the lyre:
 The trembling notes ascend the sky,
 And heavenly joys inspire.
 The song began from Jove, 25
 Who left his blissful seats above,
 (Such is the power of mighty love.)
 A dragon's fiery form belied the god:
 Sublime on radiant spires he rode,
 When he to fair Olympia pressed, 30
 And while he sought her snowy
 breast;
 Then round her slender waist he curled,
 And stamped an image of himself, a
 sovereign of the world.
 The listening crowd admire the lofty
 sound,
 "A present deity," they shout around;
 "A present deity," the vaulted roofs
 rebound: 36
 With ravished ears
 The monarch hears,
 Assumes the god,
 Affects to nod, 40
 And seems to shake the spheres.

CHORUS

With ravished ears
 The monarch hears,
 Assumes the god,
 Affects to nod, 45
 And seems to shake the spheres.
 The praise of Bacchus then the sweet musi-
 cian sung,
 Of Bacchus ever fair, and ever young.
 The jolly god in triumph comes;
 Sound the trumpets, beat the
 drums; 50
 Flushed with a purple grace
 He shows his honest face:
 Now give the hautboys breath; he comes,
 he comes.
 Bacchus, ever fair and young,
 Drinking joys did first ordain; 55
 Bacchus' blessings are a treasure,

Drinking is the soldier's pleasure;
 Rich the treasure,
 Sweet the pleasure,
 Sweet is pleasure after pain. 60

CHORUS

Bacchus' blessings are a treasure,
 Drinking is the soldier's pleasure;
 Rich the treasure,
 Sweet the pleasure,
 Sweet is pleasure after pain. 65

Soothed with the sound, the king grew vain;

Fought all his battles o'er again;
 And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice
 he slew the slain.

The master saw the madness rise,
 His glowing cheeks, his ardent eyes; 70
 And, while he heaven and earth de-
 fied,

Changed his hand, and checked his
 pride.

He chose a mournful Muse,
 Soft pity to infuse;
 He sung Darius great and good, 75
 By too severe a fate,

Fallen, fallen, fallen, fallen,
 Fallen from his high estate,
 And weltering in his blood;
 Deserted at his utmost need 80

By those his former bounty fed;
 On the bare earth exposed he lies,
 With not a friend to close his eyes.

With downcast looks the joyless victor
 sate,

Revolving in his altered soul 85
 The various turns of chance be-
 low;

And, now and then, a sigh he stole,
 And tears began to flow.

CHORUS

Revolving in his altered soul
 The various turns of chance be-
 low; 90
 And, now and then, a sigh he stole,
 And tears began to flow.

The mighty master smiled to see
 That love was in the next degree;
 'Twas but a kindred sound to move, 95
 For pity melts the mind to love.

Softly sweet, in Lydian measures,
 Soon he soothed his soul to pleas-
 ures.

"War," he sung, "is toil and trouble;
 Honor but an empty bubble; 100

Never ending, still beginning,
 Fighting still, and still destroying:
 If the world be worth thy win-
 ning,

Think, oh think it worth enjoying;
 Lovely Thais sits beside thee, 105
 Take the good the gods provide
 thee."

The many rend the skies with loud ap-
 plause:

So Love was crowned, but Music won the
 cause.

The prince, unable to conceal his pain,
 Gazed on the fair 110

Who caused his care,
 And sighed and looked, sighed and
 looked,

Sighed and looked, and sighed again:
 At length, with love and wine at once op-
 pressed,

The vanquished victor sunk upon her
 breast. 115

CHORUS

The prince, unable to conceal his pain,
 Gazed on the fair

Who caused his care,
 And sighed and looked, sighed and
 looked,

Sighed and looked, and sighed again: 120
 At length, with love and wine at once op-
 pressed,

The vanquished victor sunk upon her
 breast.

Now strike the golden lyre again:

A louder yet, and yet a louder strain.
 Break his bands of sleep asunder, 125
 And rouse him, like a rattling peal of
 thunder.

Hark, hark, the horrid sound

Has raised up his head;

As awaked from the dead,

And, amazed, he stares around. 130

"Revenge, revenge!" Timotheus cries,
 "See the Furies arise!

See the snakes that they rear,
 How they hiss in their hair,

And the sparkles that flash from their
 eyes! 135
 Behold a ghastly band,
 Each a torch in his hand!
 Those are Grecian ghosts, that in battle
 were slain,
 And unburied remain
 Inglorious on the plain: 140
 Give the vengeance due
 To the valiant crew.

Behold how they toss their torches on high,
 How they point to the Persian
 abodes,

And glittering temples of their hostile
 gods!" 145

The princes applaud with a furious joy;
 And the king seized a flambeau with zeal
 to destroy;

Thais led the way,
 To light him to his prey,
 And, like another Helen, fired another
 Troy. 150

CHORUS

And the king seized a flambeau with zeal
 to destroy;

Thais led the way,
 To light him to his prey,
 And, like another Helen, fired another
 Troy.

Thus, long ago, 155
 Ere heaving bellows learned to blow,
 While organs yet were mute,
 Timotheus, to his breathing flute
 And sounding lyre,
 Could swell the soul to rage, or kindle soft
 desire. 160

At last divine Cecilia came,
 Inventress of the vocal frame;
 The sweet enthusiast, from her sacred
 store,

Enlarged the former narrow bounds,
 And added length to solemn sounds, 165
 With Nature's mother-wit, and arts un-
 known before.

Let old Timotheus yield the prize,
 Or both divide the crown;
 He raised a mortal to the skies;
 She drew an angel down. 170

GRAND CHORUS

At last divine Cecilia came,
 Inventress of the vocal frame;

The sweet enthusiast, from her sacred
 store,

Enlarged the former narrow bounds,
 And added length to solemn sounds,
 With Nature's mother-wit, and arts un-
 known before. 176

Let old Timotheus yield the prize,
 Or both divide the crown;
 He raised a mortal to the skies;
 She drew an angel down. 180

LINES PRINTED UNDER THE EN-
 GRAVED PORTRAIT OF MILTON

(In Tonson's folio edition of *Paradise
 Lost*, 1688)

Three poets, in three distant ages born,
 Greece, Italy, and England did adorn.
 The first in loftiness of thought surpassed,
 The next in majesty, in both the last:
 The force of Nature could no farther go;
 To make a third she joined the former two.

From AN ESSAY OF DRAMATIC
 POESY

As Neander was beginning to examine
The Silent Woman, Eugenius, earnestly
 regarding him: I beseech you, Neander,
 said he, gratify the company, and me in
 particular, so far as, before you speak
 of the play, to give us a character of the
 author; and tell us frankly your opinion,
 whether you do not think all writers,
 both French and English, ought to give
 place to him? [10

I fear, replied Neander, that, in obey-
 ing your commands, I shall draw some
 envy on myself. Besides, in performing
 them, it will be first necessary to speak
 somewhat of Shakespeare and Fletcher, his
 rivals in poesy; and one of them, in my
 opinion, at least his equal, perhaps his
 superior.

To begin then with Shakespeare. He
 was the man who of all modern, and [20
 perhaps ancient poets, had the largest and
 most comprehensive soul. All the images
 of nature were still present to him, and
 he drew them not laboriously, but luckily:
 when he describes anything, you more

than see it, you feel it too. Those who accuse him to have wanted learning, give him the greater commendation: he was naturally learned; he needed not the spectacles of books to read nature; he [30] looked inwards, and found her there. I cannot say he is everywhere alike; were he so, I should do him injury to compare him with the greatest of mankind. He is many times flat, insipid; his comic wit degenerating into clenches, his serious swelling into bombast. But he is always great, when some great occasion is presented to him: no man can say, he ever had a fit subject for his wit, and did [40] not then raise himself as high above the rest of poets,

Quantum lenta solvent inter viburna cupressi.

The consideration of this made Mr. Hales of Eton say, that there was no subject of which any poet ever writ, but he would produce it much better done in Shakespeare; and however others are now generally preferred before him, yet the [50] age wherein he lived, which had contemporaries with him, Fletcher and Jonson, never equaled them to him in their esteem: and in the last king's court, when Ben's reputation was at highest, Sir John Suckling, and with him the greater part of the courtiers, set our Shakespeare far above him.

Beaumont and Fletcher, of whom I am next to speak, had, with the advantage [60] of Shakespeare's wit, which was their precedent, great natural gifts, improved by study; Beaumont especially being so accurate a judge of plays, that Ben Jonson, while he lived, submitted all his writings to his censure, and 'tis thought, used his judgment in correcting, if not contriving all his plots. What value he had for him, appears by the verses he writ to him; and therefore I need speak [70] no further of it. The first play that brought Fletcher and him in esteem, was their *Philaster*; for before that, they had written two or three very unsuccessfully: as the like is reported of Ben Jonson, before he writ *Every Man in his Humor*. Their plots were generally more regular than Shakespeare's, especially those which

were made before Beaumont's death; and they understood and imitated the [80] conversation of gentlemen much better; whose wild debaucheries, and quickness of wit in repartees, no poet before them could paint as they have done. Humor, which Ben Jonson derived from particular persons, they made it not their business to describe; they represented all the passions very lively, but above all, love. I am apt to believe the English language in them arrived to its high- [90] est perfection; what words have since been taken in, are rather superfluous than ornamental. Their plays are now the most pleasant and frequent entertainments of the stage; two of theirs being acted through the year for one of Shakespeare's or Jonson's: the reason is, because there is a certain gaiety in their comedies, and pathos in their more serious plays, which suits generally with all [100] men's humors. Shakespeare's language is likewise a little obsolete, and Ben Jonson's wit comes short of theirs.

As for Jonson, to whose character I am now arrived, if we look upon him while he was himself (for his last plays were but his dotages), I think him the most learned and judicious writer which any theater ever had. He was a most severe judge of himself, as well as [110] others. One cannot say he wanted wit, but rather that he was frugal of it. In his works you find little to retrench or alter. Wit and language, and humor also in some measure, we had before him; but something of art was wanting to the drama, till he came. He managed his strength to more advantage than any who preceded him. You seldom find him making love in any of his scenes, or [120] endeavoring to move the passions; his genius was too sullen and saturnine to do it gracefully, especially when he knew he came after those who had performed both to such an height. Humor was his proper sphere; and in that he delighted most to represent mechanic people. He was deeply conversant in the ancients, both Greek and Latin, and he borrowed boldly from them: there is scarce a poet [130] or historian among the Roman authors of those times, whom he has not trans-

lated in *Sejanus* and *Catiline*. But he has done his robberies so openly, that one may see he fears not to be taxed by any law. He invades authors like a monarch; and what would be theft in other poets, is only victory in him. With the spoils of these writers he so represents old Rome to us, in its rites, [140 ceremonies, and customs, that if one of their poets had written either of his tragedies, we had seen less of it than in him. If there was any fault in his language, it was, that he weaved it too closely and laboriously, in his comedies especially: perhaps, too, he did a little too much Romanize our tongue, leaving the words which he translated almost as much Latin as he found them: [150 wherein, though he learnedly followed their language, he did not enough comply with the idiom of ours. If I would compare him with Shakespeare, I must acknowledge him the more correct poet, but Shakespeare the greater wit. Shakespeare was the Homer, or father of our dramatic poets; Jonson was the Virgil, the pattern of elaborate writing; I admire him, but I love Shakespeare. To conclude of him; as [160 he has given us the most correct plays, so in the precepts which he has laid down in his *Discoveries*, we have as many and profitable rules for perfecting the stage, as any wherewith the French can furnish us.

From the PREFACE TO THE FABLES

It remains that I say somewhat of Chaucer in particular.

In the first place, as he is the father of English poetry, so I hold him in the same degree of veneration as the Grecians held Homer, or the Romans Virgil. He is a perpetual fountain of good sense, learned in all sciences, and therefore speaks properly on all subjects. As he knew what to say, so he knows also [10 when to leave off; a continence which is practised by few writers, and scarcely by any of the ancients, excepting Virgil and Horace. One of our late great poets is sunk in his reputation because he could never forgive any conceit which came in

his way, but swept, like a drag-net, great and small. There was plenty enough, but the dishes were ill sorted; whole pyramids of sweetmeats for boys and [20 women, but little of solid meat for men. All this proceeded, not from any want of knowledge, but of judgment. Neither did he want that in discerning the beauties and faults of other poets, but only indulged himself in the luxury of writing; and perhaps knew it was a fault but hoped the reader would not find it. For this reason, though he must always be thought a great poet, he is no longer esteemed [30 a good writer; and for ten impressions, which his works have had in so many successive years, yet at present a hundred books are scarcely purchased once a twelvemonth; for, as my last Lord Rochester said, though somewhat profanely, "Not being of God, he could not stand."

Chaucer followed nature everywhere, but was never so bold to go beyond her; and there is a great difference of being [40 *poeta* and *nimis poeta*, if we believe Catullus, as much as betwixt a modest behavior and affectation. The verse of Chaucer, I confess, is not harmonious to us; but 'tis like the eloquence of one whom Tacitus commends, it was *auribus istius temporis accommodata*; they who lived with him, and some time after him, thought it musical; and it continues so even in our judgment, if compared with the num- [50 bers of Lydgate and Gower, his contemporaries; there is the rude sweetness of a Scotch tune in it, which is natural and pleasing though not perfect. 'Tis true I cannot go so far as he who published the last edition of him, for he would make us believe the fault is in our ears, and that there were really ten syllables in a verse where we find but nine; but this opinion is not worth confuting; 'tis so [60 gross and obvious an error that common sense (which is a rule in everything but matters of faith and revelation) must convince the reader that equality of numbers, in every verse which we call heroic, was either not known or not always practised in Chaucer's age. It were an easy matter to produce some thousands of his verses which are lame for want of half a foot, and sometimes a whole [70

one, and which no pronunciation can make otherwise. We can only say that he lived in the infancy of our poetry, and that nothing is brought to perfection at the first. We must be children before we grow men.

* * * * *

He must have been a man of a most wonderful comprehensive nature, because, as it has been truly observed of him, he has taken into the compass of his [80] *Canterbury Tales* the various manners and humors (as we now call them) of the whole English nation in his age. Not a single character has escaped him. All his pilgrims are severally distinguished from each other, and not only in their inclinations but in their very physiognomies and persons. Baptista Porta could not have described their natures better than by the marks which the [90] poet gives them. The matter and manner of their tales and of their telling are so suited to their different educations, humors, and callings that each of them would be improper in any other mouth. Even the grave and serious characters are distinguished by their several sorts of gravity: their discourses are such as belong to their age, their calling, and their breeding; such as are becoming of them, [100] and of them only. Some of his persons are vicious and some virtuous; some are unlearned, or (as Chaucer calls them) lewd, and some are learned. Even the ribaldry of the low characters is different: the Reeve, the Miller, and the Cook are several men, and distinguished from each other as much as the mincing Lady Prioress and the broad-speaking, gap-toothed Wife of Bath. But enough [110] of this; there is such a variety of game springing up before me that I am distracted in my choice and know not which to follow. It is sufficient to say, according to the proverb, that here is God's plenty. We have our forefathers and great-grand-dames all before us as they were in Chaucer's days: their general characters are still remaining in mankind, and even in England, though [120] they are called by other names than those of monks, and friars, and canons, and

lady abbesses, and nuns; for mankind is ever the same, and nothing lost out of nature though everything is altered.

DANIEL DEFOE (1660?-1731)

From THE TRUE-BORN ENGLISH-MAN

Satire, be kind, and draw a silent veil,
Thy native England's vices to conceal;
Or, if that task's impossible to do,
At least be just, and show her virtues too;
Too great the first, alas! the last too few. 5

* * * * *

Ingratitude, a devil of black renown,
Possessed her very early for his own:
An ugly, surly, sullen, selfish spirit,
Who Satan's worst perfections does inherit;
Second to him in malice and in force, 10
All devil without, and all within him worse.

He made her first-born race to be so rude,
And suffered her to be so oft subdued,
By several crowds of wandering thieves o'er-run,
Often unpeopled, and as oft undone; 15
While every nation that her powers reduced
Their languages and manners introduced;
From whose mixed relics our compounded breed
By spurious generation does succeed,
Making a race uncertain and uneven, 20
Derived from all the nations under heaven.

The Romans first with Julius Cæsar came,
Including all the nations of that name,
Gauls, Greeks, and Lombards; and by computation
Auxiliaries or slaves of every nation. 25
With Hengist, Saxons; Danes with Sweno came,
In search of plunder, not in search of fame.
Scots, Picts, and Irish from the Hibernian shore;
And conquering William brought the Normans o'er.

All these their barbarous offspring left
behind, 30
The dregs of armies, they of all man-
kind,
Blended with Britons, who before were
here,
Of whom the Welsh have blest the char-
acter.

From this amphibious, ill-born mob
began
That vain, ill-natured thing, an English-
man. 35
The customs, sir-names, languages and
manners,
Of all these nations, are their own ex-
plainers;
Whose relics are so lasting and so strong,
They've left a shibboleth upon our tongue;
By which, with easy search, you may
distinguish 40

Your Roman, Saxon, Danish, Norman,
English.

* * * * *

And here begins the ancient pedigree
That so exalts our poor nobility:—

'Tis that from some French trooper they
derive,

Who with the Norman bastard did arrive:
The trophies of the families appear; 46
Some show the sword, the bow, and some
the spear,

Which their great ancestor, forsooth, did
wear.

These in the herald's register remain,
Their noble mean extraction to explain; 50
Yet who the hero was, no man can tell,
Whether a drummer, or a colonel;
The silent record blushes to reveal
Their undescended dark original.

But grant the best. How came the
change to pass, 55

A true-born Englishman of Norman race?
A Turkish horse can show more history

To prove his well-descended family.

Conquest, as by the moderns 'tis expressed,
May give a title to the lands possessed; 60
But that the longest sword should be so
civil

To make a Frenchman English, that's the
devil.

These are the heroes that despise the
Dutch,

And rail at new-come foreigners so much;

Forgetting that themselves are all derived
From the most scoundrel race that ever
lived, 66

A horrid crowd of rambling thieves and
drones

Who ransacked kingdoms and dispeopled
towns;

The Pict and painted Briton, treacherous
Scot,

By hunger, theft, and rapine, hither
brought; 70

Norwegian pirates, buccaneering Danes,
Whose red-haired offspring everywhere re-
mains;

Who, joined with Norman French, com-
pound the breed

From whence your true-born Englishmen
proceed.

* * * * *

But England, modern to the last de-
gree,

Borrows or makes her own nobility, 76
And yet she boldly boasts of pedigree;

Repines that foreigners are put upon
her,

And talks of her antiquity and honor.

Her Sackvills, Savils, Cecils, Delameres, 80
Mohuns, Montagues, Duras and Veeres,
Not one have English names, yet all are
English peers.

Your Houblons, Papillons, and Lethuliers,
Pass now for true-born English knights
and squires,

And make good senate-members, or lord
mayors. 85

Wealth, howsoever got, in England makes
Lords of mechanics, gentlemen of rakes.

Antiquity and birth are needless here;

'Tis impudence and money makes a peer.

Innumerable city knights we know, 90
From Blue-coat Hospitals, and Bridewell
flow.

Draymen and porters fill the city chair,
And foot-boys magisterial purple wear.

Fate has but very small distinction set
Betwixt the Counter and the coronet. 95

Tarpaulin lords, pages of high renown,
Rise up by poor men's valor, not their
own;

Great families of yesterday we show,
And lords, whose parents were the Lord
knows who.

* * * * *

Then let us boast of ancestors no more,
Or deeds of heroes done in days of yore,
In latent records of the ages past, 102
Behind the rear of time, in long oblivion
placed;

For if our virtues must in lines descend,
The merit with the families would end, 105
And intermixture would most fatal grow,
For vice would be hereditary too;
The tainted blood would of necessity
Involuntary wickedness convey.

Vice, like ill-nature, for an age or two
May seem a generation to pursue; 111
But virtue seldom does regard the breed;
Fools do the wise, and wise men fools
succeed.

What's it to us what ancestors we had?
If good, what better? or what worse, if
bad? 115

Examples are for imitation set,
Yet all men follow virtue with regret.

Could but our ancestors retrieve their
fate,

And see their offspring thus degenerate,—
How we contend for birth and names un-
known, 120

And build on their past actions, not our
own,—

They'd cancel records, and their tombs
deface,

And openly disown the vile degenerate
race;

For fame of families is all a cheat;
It's personal virtue only makes us great. 125

THE SHORTEST WAY WITH THE DISSENTERS

Sir Roger L'Estrange tells us a story in his collection of fables, of the cock and the horses. The cock was gotten to roost in the stable among the horses; and there being no racks or other conveniences for him, it seems he was forced to roost upon the ground. The horses jostling about for room and putting the cock in danger of his life, he gives them this grave advice, "Pray, gentlefolks, let us stand still, [10 for fear we should tread upon one another."

There are some people in the world, who, now they are unperched, and reduced to an equality with other people,

and under strong and very just apprehensions of being further treated as they deserve, begin, with Esop's cock, to preach up peace and union and the Christian duties of moderation; forgetting that [20 when they had the power in their hands, those graces were strangers in their gates!

It is now near fourteen years, that the glory and peace of the purest and most flourishing Church in the world has been eclipsed, buffeted, and disturbed by a sort of men whom God in his providence has suffered to insult over her, and bring her down. These have been the days of her humiliation and tribulation. She [30 has borne with an invincible patience the reproach of the wicked; and God has at last heard her prayers, and delivered her from the oppression of the stranger.

And now, they find their day is over, their power gone, and the throne of this nation possessed by a royal, English, true, and ever constant member of, and friend to, the Church of England. Now they find that they are in danger of [40 the Church of England's just resentments. Now, they cry out, "Peace!" "Union!" "Forbearance!" and "Charity!": as if the Church had not too long harbored her enemies under her wing, and nourished the viperous brood, till they hiss and fly in the face of the mother that cherished them!

No, gentlemen, the time of mercy is past, your day of grace is over, you [50 should have practised peace, and moderation, and charity, if you expected any yourselves.

We have heard none of this lesson for fourteen years past. We have been huffed and bullied with your Act of Toleration. You have told us that you are the Church established by law, as well as others; have set up your canting synagogues at our church doors; and the Church and her [60 members have been loaded with reproaches, with oaths, associations, abjurations, and what not! Where has been the mercy, the forbearance, the charity you have shown to tender consciences of the Church of England that could not take oaths as fast as you made them; that, having sworn allegiance to their lawful and rightful king, could not dispense with

their oath, their king being still alive, [70 and swear to your new hodge-podge of a Dutch government? These have been turned out of their livings, and they and their families left to starve; their estates double taxed to carry on a war they had no hand in, and you got nothing by! What account can you give of the multitudes you have forced to comply, against their consciences, with your new sophistical politics, who, like new converts [80 in France, sin because they cannot starve? And now the tables are turned upon you, you must not be persecuted! It is not a Christian spirit!

You have butchered one king, deposed another king, and made a mock king of a third, and yet, you could have the face to expect to be employed and trusted by the fourth! Anybody that did not know the temper of your party, would stand [90 amazed at the impudence as well as folly to think of it!

Your management of your Dutch monarch, whom you reduced to a mere King of Clubs, is enough to give any future princes such an idea of your principles as to warn them sufficiently from coming into your clutches; and, God be thanked, the Queen is out of your hands, knows you, and will have a care of you! [100

There is no doubt but the supreme authority of a nation has in itself a power, and a right to that power, to execute the laws upon any part of that nation it governs. The execution of the known laws of the land, and that with but a gentle hand neither, was all that the fanatical party of this land have ever called persecution. This they have magnified to a height that the sufferings of the [110 Huguenots in France were not to be compared with. Now to execute the known laws of a nation upon those who transgress them, after voluntarily consenting to the making of those laws, can never be called persecution, but justice. But justice is always violence to the party offending, for every man is innocent in his own eyes. The first execution of the laws against Dissenters in England [120 was in the days of King James I; and what did it amount to? Truly, the worst they suffered was, at their own request,

to let them go to New England, and erect a new colony; and give them great privileges, grants, and suitable powers; keep them under protection, and defend them against all invaders; and receive no taxes or revenue from them! This was the cruelty of the Church of England. [130 Fatal lenity! It was the ruin of that excellent prince, King Charles I. Had King James sent all the Puritans in England away to the West Indies, we had been a national unmixed Church. The Church of England had been kept undivided and entire!

To requite the lenity of the father, they take up arms against the son, conquer, pursue, take, imprison, and at last [140 put to death the anointed of God, and destroy the very being and nature of government: setting up a sordid impostor, who had neither title to govern, nor understanding to manage, but supplied that want, with power, bloody and desperate counsels and craft, without conscience.

Had not King James I withheld the full execution of the laws, had he given them strict justice, he had cleared [150 the nation of them, and the consequences had been plain: his son had never been murdered by them, nor the monarchy overwhelmed. It was too much mercy shown them that was the ruin of his posterity, and the ruin of the nation's peace. One would think the Dissenters should not have the face to believe that we are to be wheedled and canted into peace and toleration, when they know that [160 they have once required us with a civil war, and once with an intolerable and unrighteous persecution, for our former civility.

Nay, to encourage us to be easy with them, it is apparent that they never had the upper hand of the Church but they treated her with all the severity, with all the reproach and contempt as was possible! What peace and what mercy [170 did they show the loyal gentry of the Church of England, in the time of their triumphant Commonwealth? How did they put all the gentry of England to ransom, whether they were actually in arms for the king or not, making people compound for their estates, and starve

their families! How did they treat the clergy of the Church of England, sequester the ministers, devour the patrimony [180 of the Church and divide the spoil, by sharing the Church lands among their soldiers, and turning her clergy out to starve! Just such measure as they have meted, should be measured them again!

Charity and love is the known doctrine of the Church of England, and it is plain she has put it in practise towards the Dissenters, even beyond what they ought, till she has been wanting to herself, [190 and in effect unkind to her own sons; particularly, in the too much lenity of King James I, mentioned before. Had he so rooted the Puritans from the face of the land, which he had an opportunity early to have done, they had not had the power to vex the Church, as since they have done.

In the days of King Charles II, how did the Church reward their bloody [200 doings with lenity and mercy! Except the barbarous regicides of the pretended court of justice, not a soul suffered for all the blood in an unnatural war. King Charles came in all mercy and love, cherished them, preferred them, employed them, withheld the rigor of the law and oftentimes, even against the advice of his Parliament, gave them liberty of conscience; and how did they requite [210 him? With the villainous contrivance to depose and murder him and his successor, at the Rye House Plot!

King James II, as if mercy was the inherent quality of the family, began his reign with unusual favor to them. Nor could their joining with the Duke of Monmouth against him, move him to do himself justice upon them. But that mistaken prince, thinking to win [220 them by gentleness and love, proclaimed a universal liberty to them, and rather discountenanced the Church of England than them. How they requited him, all the world knows!

The late reign is too fresh in the memory of all the world to need a comment. How under pretense of joining with the Church in redressing some grievances, they pushed things to that extremity, in conjunc- [230 tion with some mistaken gentlemen, as to

depose the late king; as if the grievance of the nation could not have been redressed but by the absolute ruin of the prince. Here is an instance of their temper, their peace, and charity! To what height they carried themselves during the reign of a king of their own, how they crept into all places of trust and profit; how they insinuated them- [240 selves into the favor of the king, and were at first preferred to the highest places in the nation, how they engrossed the ministry; and, above all, how pitifully they managed, is too plain to need any remarks. . . .

These are the gentlemen! these, their ways of treating the Church, both at home and abroad! Now let us examine the reasons they pretend to give, why [250 we should be favorable to them; why we should continue and tolerate them among us.

First. They are very numerous, they say. They are a great part of the nation, and we cannot suppress them.

To this, may be answered:

First. They are not so numerous as the Protestants in France: and yet the French king effectually cleared the [260 nation of them at once; and we don't find he misses them at home! But I am not of the opinion they are so numerous as is pretended. Their party is more numerous than their persons; and those mistaken people of the Church who are misled and deluded by their wheedling artifices to join with them, make their party the greater: but those will open their eyes when the government shall set heartily [270 about the work, and come off from them, as some animals, which they say, always desert a house when it is likely to fall.

Secondly. The more numerous, the more dangerous; and therefore the more need to suppress them; and God has suffered us to bear them as goads in our sides, for not utterly extinguishing them long ago.

Thirdly. If we are to allow them, [280 only because we cannot suppress them; then it ought to be tried, whether we can or no. And I am of opinion it is easy to be done, and could prescribe ways and means, if it were proper: but I doubt not

the government will find effectual methods for the rooting of the contagion from the face of this land.

Another argument they use, which is this: that it is a time of war, and we [290 have need to unite against the common enemy.

We answer, this common enemy had been no enemy, if they had not made him so. He was quiet, in peace, and no way disturbed or encroached upon us; and we know no reason we had to quarrel with him.

But, further, we make no question but we are able to deal with this common [300 enemy without their help: but why must we unite with them, because of the enemy? Will they go over to the enemy, if we do not prevent it, by a union with them? We are very well contented they should, and make no question we shall be ready to deal with them and the common enemy too; and better without them than with them. Besides, if we have a common enemy, there is the more [310 need to be secure against our private enemies. If there is one common enemy, we have the less need to have an enemy in our bowels!

It was a great argument some people used against suppressing the old money, that "it was a time of war, and it was too great a risk for the nation to run. If we should not master it, we should be undone!" And yet the sequel proved [320 the hazard was not so great, but it might be mastered, and the success was answerable. The suppressing the Dissenters is not a harder work, nor a work of less necessity to the public. We can never enjoy a settled, uninterrupted union and tranquillity in this nation, till the spirit of Whiggism, faction, and schism is melted down like the old money! . . .

The representatives of the nation [330 have now an opportunity. The time is come which all good men have wished for, that the gentlemen of England may serve the Church of England, now they are protected and encouraged by a Church of England queen! . . .

If ever you will establish the best Christian Church in the world; if ever you will suppress the spirit of enthusiasm; if ever

you will free the nation from the [340 viperous brood that have so long sucked the blood of their mother; if ever you will leave your posterity free from faction and rebellion, this is the time! This is the time to pull up this heretical weed of sedition, that has so long disturbed the peace of our Church, and poisoned the good corn!

But, says another hot and cold objector, this is renewing fire and faggot, [350 reviving the Act *De heretico comburendo*. This will be cruelty in its nature, and barbarous to all the world.

I answer, it is cruelty to kill a snake or a toad in cold blood, but the poison of their nature makes it a charity to our neighbors to destroy those creatures, not for any personal injury received, but for prevention; not for the evil they have done, but the evil they may do. Ser- [360 pents, toads, vipers, etc., are noxious to the body, and poison the sensitive life: these poison the soul, corrupt our posterity, ensnare our children, destroy the vitals of our happiness, our future felicity, and contaminate the whole mass!

Shall any law be given to such wild creatures? Some beasts are for sport, and the huntsmen give them advantages of ground, but some are knocked on [370 the head by all possible ways of violence and surprise.

I do not prescribe fire and faggot; but as Scipio said of Carthage, *Delenda est Carthago!* they are to be rooted out of this nation, if ever we will live in peace, serve God, or enjoy our own. As for the manner, I leave it to those hands who have a right to execute God's justice on the nation's and the Church's enemies. [380

But if we must be frightened from this justice, under these specious pretenses, and odious sense of cruelty, nothing will be effected. It will be more barbarous to our own children and dear posterity, when they shall reproach their fathers, as we do ours, and tell us, "You had an opportunity to root out this cursed race from the world under the favor and protection of a true Church of England [390 queen, and out of your foolish pity, you spared them, because, forsooth, you would not be cruel! And now our Church is

suppressed and persecuted, our religion trampled under foot, our estates plundered, our persons imprisoned, and dragged to gaols, gibbets, and scaffolds! Your sparing this Amalekite race is our destruction! Your mercy to them proves cruelty to your poor posterity!" [400]

How just will such reflections be when our posterity shall fall under the merciless clutches of this uncharitable generation; when our Church shall be swallowed up in schism, faction, enthusiasm, and confusion; when our government shall be devolved upon foreigners, and our monarchy dwindled into a republic!

It would be more rational for us, if we must spare this generation, to sum- [410] mon our own to a general massacre; and as we have brought them into the world free, to send them out so; and not betray them to destruction by our supine negligence, and then cry, "It is mercy!"

Moses was a merciful meek man; and yet with what fury did he run through the camp, and cut the throats of three and thirty thousand of his dear Israelites that were fallen into idolatry. What [420] was the reason? It was mercy to the rest, to make these examples, to prevent the destruction of the whole army.

How many millions of future souls we save from infection and delusion, if the present race of poisoned spirits were purged from the face of the land!

It is vain to trifle in this matter. The light foolish handling of them by mulcts, fines, etc.,—'tis their glory and their [430] advantage! If the gallows instead of the Counter, and the galleys instead of the fines were the reward of going to a conventicle to preach or hear, there would not be so many sufferers. The spirit of martyrdom is over. They that will go to church to be chosen sheriffs and mayors, would go to forty churches rather than be hanged!

If one severe law were made and [440] punctually executed that whoever was found at a conventicle should be banished the nation, and the preacher be hanged, we should soon see an end of the tale. They would all come to church, and one age would make us all one again.

To talk of five shillings a month for not

coming to the sacrament, and one shilling per week, for not coming to church: this is such a way of converting [450] people as was never known. This is selling them a liberty to transgress, for so much money. If it be not a crime, why don't we give them full license? And if it be, no price ought to compound for the committing it, for that is selling a liberty to people to sin against God and the government.

If it be a crime of the highest consequence, both against the peace and [460] welfare of the nation, the glory of God, the good of the Church, and the happiness of the soul, let us rank it among capital offenses, and let it receive a punishment in proportion to it.

We hang men for trifles, and banish them for things not worth naming; but that an offense against God and the Church, against the welfare of the world, and the dignity of religion shall be [470] bought off for five shillings: this is such a shame to a Christian government that it is with regret I transmit it to posterity.

If men sin against God, affront his ordinances, rebel against his Church, and disobey the precepts of their superiors; let them suffer, as such capital crimes deserve. So will religion flourish, and this divided nation be once again united. . . . [480]

How can we answer it to God, to the Church, and to our posterity, to leave them entangled with fanaticism, error, and obstinacy, in the bowels of the nation; to leave them an enemy in their streets, that, in time, may involve them in the same crimes, and endanger the utter extirpation of the religion of the nation.

What is the difference betwixt this, and being subject to the power of the [490] Church of Rome, from whence we have reformed? If one be an extreme on one hand, and one on another, it is equally destructive to the truth to have errors settled among us, let them be of what nature they will. Both are enemies of our Church, and of our peace; and why should it not be as criminal to admit an enthusiast as a Jesuit? Why should the Papist with his seven sacraments be [500] worse than the Quaker with no sacraments

at all? Why should religious houses be more intolerable than meeting houses? Alas, the Church of England! What with popery on one hand, and schismatics on the other, how has she been crucified between two thieves. Now, let us crucify the thieves!

Let her foundations be established upon the destruction of her enemies! The [510 doors of mercy being always open to the returning part of the deluded people, let the obstinate be ruled with the rod of iron!

Let all true sons of so holy and oppressed a mother, exasperated by her afflictions, harden their hearts against those who have oppressed her.

And may God Almighty put it into the hearts of all the friends of truth, to [520 lift up a standard against pride and Antichrist, that the posterity of the sons of error may be rooted out from the face of this land, for ever!

A TRUE RELATION OF THE APPARITION OF MRS. VEAL

The next day after her death, to Mrs. Bargrave, at Canterbury, the eighth of September, 1705

THE PREFACE

This relation is matter of fact, and attended with such circumstances as may induce any reasonable man to believe it. It was sent by a gentleman, a justice of peace at Maidstone, in Kent, and a very intelligent person, to his friend in London, as it is here worded; which discourse is attested by a very sober and understanding gentlewoman and kinswoman (of the said gentleman's) who lives in Canterbury, [10 within a few doors of the house in which the within-named Mrs. Bargrave lives; who believes his kinswoman to be of so discerning a spirit, as not to be put upon by any fallacy, and who positively assured him that the whole matter as it is here related and laid down is what is really true, and what she herself had in the same words, as near as may be, from Mrs. Bargrave's own mouth, who she knows, had no [20

reason to invent and publish such a story, or any design to forge and tell a lie, being a woman of much honesty and virtue, and her whole life a course, as it were, of piety. The use which we ought to make of it is to consider that there is a life to come after this, and a just God who will retribute to every one according to the deeds done in the body, and therefore to reflect upon our past course of life we [30 have led in the world; that our time is short and uncertain; and that if we would escape the punishment of the ungodly and receive the reward of the righteous, which is the laying hold of eternal life, we ought, for the time to come, to return to God by a speedy repentance, ceasing to do evil, and learning to do well; to seek after God early, if haply He may be found of us, and lead such lives [40 for the future as may be well pleasing in His sight.

A RELATION OF THE APPARITION OF MRS. VEAL

This thing is so rare in all its circumstances, and on so good authority, that my reading and conversation has not given me anything like it. It is fit to gratify the most ingenious and serious inquirer. Mrs. Bargrave is the person to whom Mrs. Veal appeared after her death; she is my intimate friend, and I can avouch for her reputation for these last fifteen or sixteen years, on my [10 own knowledge; and I can confirm the good character she had from her youth to the time of my acquaintance; though since this relation she is calumniated by some people that are friends to the brother of Mrs. Veal who appeared, who think the relation of this appearance to be a reflection, and endeavor what they can to blast Mrs. Bargrave's reputation, and to laugh the story out of coun- [20 tenance. But by the circumstances thereof, and the cheerful disposition of Mrs. Bargrave, notwithstanding the unheard-of ill-usage of a very wicked husband, there is not the least sign of dejection in her face; nor did I ever hear her let fall a desponding or murmuring expression; nay, not when actually under her husband's barbarity, which I have

been witness to, and several other [30 persons of undoubted reputation.

Now you must know Mrs. Veal was a maiden gentlewoman of about thirty years of age, and for some years last past had been troubled with fits, which were perceived coming on her by her going off from her discourses very abruptly to some impertinence. She was maintained by an only brother, and kept his house in Dover. She was a very pious [40 woman, and her brother a very sober man, to all appearance; but now he does all he can to null or quash the story. Mrs. Veal was intimately acquainted with Mrs. Bargrave from her childhood. Mrs. Veal's circumstances were then mean; her father did not take care of his children as he ought, so that they were exposed to hardships; and Mrs. Bargrave in those days had as unkind a father, though [50 she wanted neither for food nor clothing, whilst Mrs. Veal wanted for both; so that it was in the power of Mrs. Bargrave to be very much her friend in several instances, which mightily endeared Mrs. Veal; insomuch that she would often say, "Mrs. Bargrave, you are not only the best, but the only friend I have in the world; and no circumstance in life shall ever dissolve my friendship." They [60 would often condole each other's adverse fortunes, and read together "Drelincourt upon Death," and other good books; and so, like two Christian friends, they comforted each other under their sorrow.

Some time after, Mr. Veal's friends got him a place in the custom-house at Dover, which occasioned Mrs. Veal, by little and little, to fall off from her intimacy with Mrs. Bargrave, though there never [70 was any such thing as a quarrel; but an indifferency came on by degrees, till at last Mrs. Bargrave had not seen her in two years and a half; though about a twelvemonth of the time Mrs. Bargrave had been absent from Dover, and this last half-year had been in Canterbury about two months of the time, dwelling in a house of her own.

In this house, on the 8th of September last, viz., 1705, she was sitting alone, in the forenoon, thinking over her unfortunate life, and arguing herself into

a due resignation to Providence, though her condition seemed hard. "And," said she, "I have been provided for hitherto, and doubt not but I shall be still; and am well satisfied that my afflictions shall end when it is most fit for me;" and then took up her sewing-work, which she [90 had no sooner done but she hears a knocking at the door. She went to see who it was there, and this proved to be Mrs. Veal, her old friend, who was in a riding-habit; at that moment of time the clock struck twelve at noon.

"Madam," says Mrs. Bargrave, "I am surprised to see you, you have been so long a stranger;" but told her she was glad to see her, and offered to salute [100 her, which Mrs. Veal complied with, till their lips almost touched; and then Mrs. Veal drew her hand across her own eyes and said, "I am not very well," and so waived it. She told Mrs. Bargrave she was going a journey, and had a great mind to see her first. "But," says Mrs. Bargrave, "how came you to take a journey alone? I am amazed at it, because I know you have so fond a [110 brother." "Oh," says Mrs. Veal, "I gave my brother the slip, and came away, because I had so great a desire to see you before I took my journey." So Mrs. Bargrave went in with her into another room within the first, and Mrs. Veal set her down in an elbow-chair, in which Mrs. Bargrave was sitting when she heard Mrs. Veal knock. Then says Mrs. Veal, "My dear friend, I am come to renew [120 our old friendship again, and beg your pardon for my breach of it; and if you can forgive me, you are one of the best of women." "Oh," says Mrs. Bargrave, "don't mention such a thing. I have not had an uneasy thought about it; I can easily forgive it." "What did you think of me?" said Mrs. Veal. Says Mrs. Bargrave, "I thought you were like the rest of the world, and that prosperity [130 had made you forget yourself and me." Then Mrs. Veal reminded Mrs. Bargrave of the many friendly offices she did in her former days, and much of the conversation they had with each other in the time of their adversity; what books they read, and what comfort in particular

they received from Drelincourt's "Book of Death," which was the best, she said, on that subject ever wrote. She [140 also mentioned Dr. Sherlock, and two Dutch books which were translated, wrote upon death, and several others; but Drelincourt, she said, had the clearest notions of death and of the future state of any who had handled that subject. Then she asked Mrs. Bargrave whether she had Drelincourt. She said, "Yes." Says Mrs. Veal, "Fetch it." And so Mrs. Bargrave goes upstairs and brings it [150 down. Says Mrs. Veal, "Dear Mrs. Bargrave, if the eyes of our faith were as open as the eyes of our body, we should see numbers of angels about us for our guard. The notions we have of heaven now are nothing like to what it is, as Drelincourt says. Therefore be comforted under your afflictions, and believe that the Almighty has a particular regard to you, and that your afflictions are [160 marks of God's favor; and when they have done the business they are sent for, they shall be removed from you. And believe me, my dear friend, believe what I say to you, one minute of future happiness will infinitely reward you for all your sufferings; for I can never believe" (and claps her hand upon her knee with great earnestness, which indeed ran through most of her discourse) "that ever [170 God will suffer you to spend all your days in this afflicted state; but be assured that your afflictions shall leave you, or you them, in a short time." She spake in that pathetical and heavenly manner that Mrs. Bargrave wept several times, she was so deeply affected with it.

Then Mrs. Veal mentioned Dr. Horneck's "Ascetic," at the end of which he gives an account of the lives of the [180 primitive Christians. Their pattern she recommended to our imitation, and said their conversation was not like this of our age; "for now," says she, "there is nothing but frothy, vain discourse, which is far different from theirs. Theirs was to edification, and to build one another up in faith; so that they were not as we are, nor are we as they were; but," said she, "we might do as they did. There [190 was a hearty friendship among them; but

where is it now to be found?" Says Mrs. Bargrave, "'Tis hard indeed to find a true friend in these days." Says Mrs. Veal, "Mr. Norris has a fine copy of verses, called 'Friendship in Perfection,' which I wonderfully admire. Have you seen the book?" says Mrs. Veal. "No," says Mrs. Bargrave, "but I have the verses of my own writing out." [200 "Have you?" says Mrs. Veal; "then fetch them." Which she did from above-stairs, and offered them to Mrs. Veal to read, who refused, and waived the thing, saying holding down her head would make it ache; and then desired Mrs. Bargrave to read them to her, which she did. As they were admiring "Friendship" Mrs. Veal said, "Dear Mrs. Bargrave, I shall love you for ever." In [210 these verses there is twice used the word *Elysian*. "Ah!" says Mrs. Veal, "these poets have such names for heaven!" She would often draw her hand across her own eyes and say, "Mrs. Bargrave, don't you think I am mightily impaired by my fits?" "No," says Mrs. Bargrave, "I think you look as well as ever I knew you."

After all this discourse, which the ap- [220 parition put in words much finer than Mrs. Bargrave said she could pretend to, and was much more than she can remember, for it cannot be thought that an hour and three-quarters' conversation could all be retained, though the main of it she thinks she does, she said to Mrs. Bargrave she would have her write a letter to her brother, and tell him she would have him give rings to such and [230 such, and that there was a purse of gold in her cabinet, and that she would have two broad pieces given to her cousin Watson.

Talking at this rate, Mrs. Bargrave thought that a fit was coming upon her, and so placed herself in a chair just before her knees, to keep her from falling to the ground, if her fits should occasion it (for the elbow-chair, she thought, [240 would keep her from falling on either side); and to divert Mrs. Veal, as she thought, took hold of her gown-sleeve several times and commended it. Mrs. Veal told her it was a scoured silk, and

newly made up. But for all this, Mrs. Veal persisted in her request, and told Mrs. Bargrave she must not deny her; and that she would have her tell her brother all their conversation when [250 she had an opportunity. "Dear Mrs. Veal," said Mrs. Bargrave, "this seems so impertinent that I cannot tell how to comply with it; and what a mortifying story will our conversation be to a young gentleman!" "Well," says Mrs. Veal, "I must not be denied." "Why," says Mrs. Bargrave, "'tis much better, methinks, to do it yourself." "No," says Mrs. Veal, "though it seems imperti- [260 nent to you now, you will see more reason for it hereafter." Mrs. Bargrave then, to satisfy her importunity, was going to fetch a pen and ink, but Mrs. Veal said, "Let it alone now, but do it when I am gone; but you must be sure to do it," which was one of the last things she enjoined her at parting; and so she promised her.

Then Mrs. Veal asked for Mrs. [270 Bargrave's daughter. She said she was not at home, "but if you have a mind to see her," says Mrs. Bargrave, "I'll send for her." "Do," says Mrs. Veal. On which she left her, and went to a neighbor's to send for her; and by the time Mrs. Bargrave was returning, Mrs. Veal was got without the door in the street, in the face of the beast-market, on a Saturday (which is market-day), and stood [280 ready to part as soon as Mrs. Bargrave came to her. She asked her why she was in such haste. She said she must be going, though perhaps she might not go her journey until Monday; and told Mrs. Bargrave she hoped she should see her again at her cousin Watson's before she went whither she was a-going. Then she said she would take her leave of her, and walked from Mrs. Bargrave in [290 her view, till a turning interrupted the sight of her, which was three-quarters after one in the afternoon.

Mrs. Veal died the 7th of September, at twelve o'clock at noon, of her fits, and had not above four hours' senses before death, in which time she received the sacrament. The next day after Mrs. Veal's appearing, being Sunday, Mrs. Bargrave

was mightily indisposed with a cold [300 and a sore throat, that she could not go out that day; but on Monday morning she sends a person to Captain Watson's to know if Mrs. Veal was there. They wondered at Mrs. Bargrave's inquiry, and sent her word that she was not there, nor was expected. At this answer, Mrs. Bargrave told the maid she had certainly mistook the name or made some blunder. And though she was ill, [310 she put on her hood, and went herself to Captain Watson's, though she knew none of the family, to see if Mrs. Veal was there or not. They said they wondered at her asking, for that she had not been in town; they were sure, if she had, she would have been there. Says Mrs. Bargrave, "I am sure she was with me on Saturday almost two hours." They said it was impossible; for they must [320 have seen her, if she had. In comes Captain Watson while they are in dispute, and said that Mrs. Veal was certainly dead, and her escutcheons were making. This strangely surprised Mrs. Bargrave, who went to the person immediately who had the care of them, and found it true. Then she related the whole story to Captain Watson's family, and what gown she had on, and how striped, and that [330 Mrs. Veal told her it was scoured. Then Mrs. Watson cried out, "You have seen her indeed, for none knew but Mrs. Veal and myself that the gown was scoured." And Mrs. Watson owned that she described the gown exactly; "for," said she, "I helped her to make it up." This Mrs. Watson blazed all about the town, and avouched the demonstration of the truth of Mrs. Bargrave's seeing Mrs. Veal's [340 apparition; and Captain Watson carried two gentlemen immediately to Mrs. Bargrave's house to hear the relation from her own mouth. And then it spread so fast that gentlemen and persons of quality, the judicious and sceptical part of the world, flocked in upon her, which at last became such a task that she was forced to go out of the way; for they were in general extremely satisfied of [350 the truth of the thing, and plainly saw that Mrs. Bargrave was no hypochondriac, for she always appears with such a cheer-

ful air and pleasing mien, that she has gained the favor and esteem of all the gentry, and 'tis thought a great favor if they can but get the relation from her own mouth. I should have told you before that Mrs. Veal told Mrs. Bargrave that her sister and brother-in-law were [360 just come down from London to see her. Says Mrs. Bargrave, "How came you to order matters so strangely?" "It could not be helped," says Mrs. Veal. And her sister and brother did come to see her, and entered the town of Dover just as Mrs. Veal was expiring. Mrs. Bargrave asked her whether she would drink some tea. Says Mrs. Veal, "I do not care if I do; but I'll warrant this mad fel- [370 low" (meaning Mrs. Bargrave's husband) "has broke all your trinkets." "But," says Mrs. Bargrave, "I'll get something to drink in for all that." But Mrs. Veal waived it, and said, "It is no matter; let it alone;" and so it passed.

All the time I sat with Mrs. Bargrave, which was some hours, she recollected fresh sayings of Mrs. Veal. And one material thing more she told Mrs. Bargrave—[380 that old Mr. Breton allowed Mrs. Veal ten pounds a year, which was a secret, and unknown to Mrs. Bargrave till Mrs. Veal told it her. Mrs. Bargrave never varies in her story, which puzzles those who doubt of the truth or are unwilling to believe it. A servant in a neighbor's yard adjoining to Mrs. Bargrave's house heard her talking to somebody an hour of the time Mrs. Veal was with her. [390 Mrs. Bargrave went out to her next neighbor's the very moment she parted with Mrs. Veal, and told what ravishing conversation she had with an old friend, and told the whole of it. Drelincourt's "Book of Death" is, since this happened, bought up strangely. And it is to be observed that, notwithstanding all this trouble and fatigue Mrs. Bargrave has undergone upon this account, she [400 never took the value of a farthing, nor suffered her daughter to take anything of anybody, and therefore can have no interest in telling the story.

But Mr. Veal does what he can to stifle the matter, and said he would see Mrs. Bargrave; but yet it is certain matter

of fact that he has been at Captain Watson's since the death of his sister, and yet never went near Mrs. Bargrave; [410 and some of his friends report her to be a great liar, and that she knew of Mr. Breton's ten pounds a year. But the person who pretends to say so has the reputation of a notorious liar among persons whom I know to be of undoubted repute. Now, Mr. Veal is more a gentleman than to say she lies, but says a bad husband has crazed her; but she needs only to present herself and it will [420 effectually confute that pretence. Mr. Veal says he asked his sister on her death-bed whether she had a mind to dispose of anything, and she said no. Now, the things which Mrs. Veal's apparition would have disposed of were so trifling, and nothing of justice aimed at in their disposal, that the design of it appears to me to be only in order to make Mrs. Bargrave so to demonstrate the truth of her [430 appearance, as to satisfy the world of the reality thereof as to what she had seen and heard, and to secure her reputation among the reasonable and understanding part of mankind. And then again Mr. Veal owns that there was a purse of gold; but it was not found in her cabinet, but in a comb-box. This looks improbable; for that Mrs. Watson owned that Mrs. Veal was so very careful of the key [440 of her cabinet that she would trust nobody with it; and if so, no doubt she would not trust her gold out of it. And Mrs. Veal's often drawing her hand over her eyes, and asking Mrs. Bargrave whether her fits had not impaired her, looks to me as if she did it on purpose to remind Mrs. Bargrave of her fits, to prepare her not to think it strange that she should put her upon writing to [450 her brother to dispose of rings and gold, which looks so much like a dying person's request; and it took accordingly with Mrs. Bargrave, as the effects of her fits coming upon her; and was one of the many instances of her wonderful love to her and care of her that she should not be affrighted; which indeed appears in her whole management, particularly in her coming to her in the daytime, waiv- [460 ing the salutation, and when she was

alone; and then the manner of her parting to prevent a second attempt to salute her.

Now, why Mr. Veal should think this relation a reflection (as 'tis plain he does by his endeavoring to stifle it), I can't imagine, because the generality believe her to be a good spirit, her discourse was so heavenly. Her two great errands were to comfort Mrs. Bargrave in her [470 affliction, and to ask her forgiveness for her breach of friendship, and with a pious discourse to encourage her. So that after all to suppose that Mrs. Bargrave could hatch such an invention as this from Friday noon till Saturday noon (supposing that she knew of Mrs. Veal's death the very first moment) without jumbling circumstances, and without any interest too, she must be more witty, for- [480 tunate, and wicked too, than any indifferent person, I dare say, will allow. I asked Mrs. Bargrave several times if she was sure she felt the gown. She answered modestly, "If my senses are to be relied on, I am sure of it." I asked her if she heard a sound when she clapped her hands upon her knee. She said she did not remember she did, and she said, "She appeared to be as much a substance [490 as I did, who talked with her; and I may," said she, "be as soon persuaded that your apparition is talking to me now as that I did not really see her; for I was under no manner of fear; I received her as a friend, and parted with her as such. I would not," says she, "give one farthing to make any one believe it; I have no interest in it. Nothing but trouble is entailed upon me for a long time, for [500 aught I know; and had it not come to light by accident, it would never have been made public." But now she says she will make her own private use of it, and keep herself out of the way as much as she can; and so she has done since. She says she had a gentleman who came thirty miles to her to hear the relation, and that she had told it to a roomfull of people at a time. Several particular [510 gentlemen have had the story from Mrs. Bargrave's own mouth.

This thing has very much affected me, and I am as well satisfied as I am of the best grounded matter of fact. And why

we should dispute matter of fact because we cannot solve things of which we have no certain or demonstrative notions, seems strange to me. Mrs. Bargrave's authority and sincerity alone would [520 have been undoubted in any other case.

JONATHAN SWIFT (1667-1745)

From THE TALE OF A TUB

THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The wits of the present age being so very numerous and penetrating, it seems the grandees of church and state begin to fall under horrible apprehensions lest these gentlemen, during the intervals of a long peace, should find leisure to pick holes in the weak sides of religion and government. To prevent which, there has been much thought employed of late upon certain projects for taking off [10 the force and edge of those formidable inquirers from canvassing and reasoning upon such delicate points. They have at length fixed upon one which will require some time as well as cost to perfect. Meanwhile, the danger hourly increasing by new levies of wits, all appointed (as there is reason to fear) with pen, ink, and paper, which may at an hour's warning be drawn out into pamphlets and [20 other offensive weapons, ready for immediate execution, it was judged of absolute necessity that some present expedient be thought on, till the main design can be brought to maturity. To this end, at a grand committee some days ago, this important discovery was made by a certain curious and refined observer:—that seamen have a custom, when they meet a whale, to fling him an [30 empty tub by way of amusement, to divert him from laying violent hands upon the ship. This parable was immediately mythologised; the whale was interpreted to be Hobbes's *Leviathan*, which tosses and plays with all schemes of religion and government, whereof a great many are hollow, and dry, and empty, and noisy, and wooden, and given to rotation: this is the leviathan whence the ter- [40

rible wits of our age are said to borrow their weapons. The ship in danger is easily understood to be its old antitype, the commonwealth. But how to analyze the tub, was a matter of difficulty; when after long inquiry and debate, the literal meaning was preserved; and it was decreed, that in order to prevent these leviathans from tossing and sporting with the commonwealth, which of itself [50 is too apt to fluctuate, they should be diverted from that game by a Tale of a Tub. And, my genius being conceived to lie not unhappily that way, I had the honor done me to be engaged in the performance. . . .

SECTION II

Once upon a time there was a man who had three sons by one wife, and all at a birth, neither could the midwife tell certainly which was the eldest. Their father died while they were young; and upon his death-bed, calling the lads to him, spoke thus:—

“Sons, because I have purchased no estate, nor was born to any, I have long considered of some good legacies to [10 bequeath you; and at last, with much care, as well as expense, have provided each of you (here they are) a new coat. Now, you are to understand that these coats have two virtues contained in them; one is, that with good wearing they will last you fresh and sound as long as you live; the other is, that they will grow in the same proportion with your bodies, lengthening and widening of them- [20 selves, so as to be always fit. Here; let me see them on you before I die. So; very well; pray, children, wear them clean, and brush them often. You will find in my will (here it is) full instructions in every particular concerning the wearing and management of your coats; wherein you must be very exact, to avoid the penalties I have appointed for every transgression or neglect, upon which your [30 future fortunes will entirely depend. I have also commanded in my will that you should live together in one house like brethren and friends, for then you will be sure to thrive, and not otherwise.”

Here, the story says, this good father died, and the three sons went all together to seek their fortunes.

I shall not trouble you with recounting what adventures they met for the [40 first seven years, any farther than by taking notice that they carefully observed their father's will, and kept their coats in very good order: that they travelled through several countries, encountered a reasonable quantity of giants, and slew certain dragons.

Being now arrived at the proper age for producing themselves, they came up to town, and fell in love with the ladies, [50 but especially three, who about that time were in chief reputation: the Duchess d'Argent, Madame de Grands Titres, and the Countess d'Orgueil. On their first appearance our three adventurers met with a very bad reception; and soon with great sagacity guessing out the reason, they quickly began to improve in the good qualities of the town; they writ, and rallied, and rhymed, and sung, [60 and said, and said nothing; . . . they killed bailiffs, kicked fiddlers down stairs, eat at Locket's, loitered at Will's; they talked of the drawing-room, and never came there; dined with lords they never saw; whispered a duchess, and spoke never a word; exposed the scrawls of their laundress for billets-doux of quality; came ever just from court, and were never seen in it; attended the levee *sub dio*; got [70 a list of peers by heart in one company. and with great familiarity retailed them in another. Above all, they constantly attended those committees of senators who are silent in the house and loud in the coffee-house; where they nightly adjourn to chew the cud of politics, and are encompassed with a ring of disciples, who lie in wait to catch up their droppings. The three brothers had ac- [80 quired forty other qualifications of the like stamp, too tedious to recount, and by consequence were justly reckoned the most accomplished persons in the town; but all would not suffice, and the ladies aforesaid continued still inflexible. To clear up which difficulty I must, with the reader's good leave and patience, have recourse to some points of weight,

which the authors of that age have not [90 sufficiently illustrated.

For about this time it happened a sect arose whose tenets obtained and spread very far, especially in the *grande monde*, and among everybody of good fashion. They worshipped a sort of idol, who, as their doctrine delivered, did daily create men by a kind of manufactory operation. This idol they placed in the highest parts of the house, on an altar erected [100 about three foot; he was shown in the posture of a Persian emperor, sitting on a superficies, with his legs interwoven under him. . . .

The worshippers of this deity had also a system of their belief, which seemed to turn upon the following fundamentals. They held the universe to be a large suit of clothes, which invests everything; that the earth is invested by the air; the [110 air is invested by the stars; and the stars are invested by the *primum mobile*. Look on this globe of earth, you will find it to be a very complete and fashionable dress. What is that which some call land but a fine coat faced with green? or the sea, but a waistcoat of water-tabby? Proceed to the particular works of the creation, you will find how curious journeyman Nature has been to trim up the vegetable [120 beaux; observe how sparkish a periwig adorns the head of a beech, and what a fine doublet of white satin is worn by the birch. To conclude from all, what is man himself but a microcoat, or rather a complete suit of clothes with all its trimmings? As to his body there can be no dispute; but examine even the acquirements of his mind, you will find them all contribute in their order towards furnishing out an [130 exact dress: to instance no more; is not religion a cloak, honesty a pair of shoes worn out in the dirt, self-love a surtout, vanity a shirt, and conscience a pair of breeches? . . .

These opinions, therefore, were so universal, as well as the practices of them, among the refined part of court and town, that our three brother adventurers, as their circumstances then stood, were [140 strangely at a loss. For, on the one side, the three ladies they addressed themselves to, whom we have named

already, were at the very top of the fashion, and abhorred all that were below it but the breadth of a hair. On the other side, their father's will was very precise; and it was the main precept in it, with the greatest penalties annexed, not to add to or diminish from their coats one [150 thread, without a positive command in the will. Now, the coats their father had left them were, 'tis true, of very good cloth, and besides so neatly sewn, you would swear they were all of a piece; but at the same time very plain, and with little or no ornament: and it happened that before they were a month in town great shoulder-knots came up; straight all the world was shoulder-knots. . . . [160 That fellow, cries one, has no soul; where is his shoulder-knot? Our three brethren soon discovered their want by sad experience, meeting in their walks with forty mortifications and indignities. If they went to the playhouse the door-keeper showed them into the twelve-penny gallery; if they called a boat, says a waterman, "I am first sculler"; if they stepped to the Rose to take a [170 bottle, the drawer would cry, "Friend, we sell no ale;" if they went to visit a lady, a footman met them at the door with "Pray send up your message." In this unhappy case they went immediately to consult their father's will, read it over and over, but not a word of the shoulder-knot. What should they do?—what temper should they find?—obedience was absolutely necessary, and yet shoulder- [180 knots appeared extremely requisite. After much thought one of the brothers, who happened to be more book-learned than the other two, said he had found an expedient. "'Tis true," said he, "there is nothing here in this will, *totidem verbis*, making mention of shoulder-knots: but I dare conjecture we may find them *inclusive*, or *totidem syllabis*." This distinction was immediately approved by [190 all, and so they fell again to examine the will; but their evil star had so directed the matter that the first syllable was not to be found in the whole writing. Upon which disappointment, he who found the former evasion took heart, and said, "Brothers, there are yet hopes; for though

we cannot find them *totidem verbis*, nor *totidem syllabis*, I dare engage we shall make them out *tertio modo*, or *totidem [200 literis]*." This discovery was also highly commended, upon which they fell once more to the scrutiny, and picked out S, H, O, U, L, D, E, R; when the same planet, enemy to their repose, had wonderfully contrived that a K was not to be found. Here was a weighty difficulty! but the distinguishing brother, for whom we shall hereafter find a name, now his hand was in, proved by a very [210 good argument that K was a modern, illegitimate letter, unknown to the learned ages, nor anywhere to be found in ancient manuscripts. "'Tis true," said he, "*Calendæ* hath in Q. V. C. been sometimes writ with a K, but erroneously; for in the best copies it is ever spelled with a C. And, by consequence, it was a gross mistake in our language to spell 'knot' with a K;" but that from hencefor- [220 ward he would take care it should be writ with a C. Upon this all farther difficulty vanished—shoulder-knots were made clearly out to be *jure paterno*, and our three gentlemen swaggered with as large and as flaunting ones as the best. . . .

The learned brother, so often mentioned, was reckoned the best scholar in all that or the next street to it, insomuch as, having run something behindhand [230 in the world, he obtained the favor of a certain lord to receive him into his house, and to teach his children. A while after the lord died, and he, by long practice of his father's will, found the way of contriving a deed of conveyance of that house to himself and his heirs; upon which he took possession, turned the young squires out, and received his brothers in their stead. [240

SECTION VI

We left lord Peter in open rupture with his two brethren; both for ever discarded from his house, and resigned to the wide world, with little or nothing to trust to. Which are circumstances that render them proper subjects for the charity of a writer's pen to work on; scenes of misery ever affording the fairest harvest for great adventures. And in this the world

may perceive the difference between [10 the integrity of a generous author and that of a common friend. The latter is observed to adhere closely in prosperity, but on the decline of fortune to drop suddenly off. Whereas the generous author, just on the contrary, finds his hero on the dunghill, from thence by gradual steps raises him to a throne, and then immediately withdraws, expecting not so much as thanks for [20 his pains; in imitation of which example, I have placed lord Peter in a noble house, given him a title to wear and money to spend. There I shall leave him for some time; returning where common charity directs me, to the assistance of his two brothers at their lowest ebb. However, I shall by no means forget my character of an historian to follow the truth step by step, whatever happens, or wherever [30 it may lead me.

The two exiles, so nearly united in fortune and interest, took a lodging together; where, at their first leisure, they began to reflect on the numberless misfortunes and vexations of their life past, and could not tell on the sudden to what failure in their conduct they ought to impute them; when, after some recollection, they called to mind the copy of their father's will, [40 which they had so happily recovered. This was immediately produced, and a firm resolution taken between them to alter whatever was already amiss, and reduce all their future measures to the strictest obedience prescribed therein. The main body of the will (as the reader cannot easily have forgot) consisted in certain admirable rules about the wearing of their coats; in the perusal whereof, [50 the two brothers at every period duly comparing the doctrine with the practice, there was never seen a wider difference between two things; horrible downright transgressions of every point. Upon which they both resolved, without farther delay, to fall immediately upon reducing the whole exactly after their father's model.

But here it is good to stop the hasty [60 reader, ever impatient to see the end of an adventure before we writers can duly prepare him for it. I am to record that

these two brothers began to be distinguished at this time by certain names. One of them desired to be called MARTIN, and the other took the appellation of JACK. These two had lived in much friendship and agreement under the tyranny of their brother Peter, as it is [70 the talent of fellow-sufferers to do; men in misfortune being like men in the dark, to whom all colors are the same: but when they came forward into the world, and began to display themselves to each other and to the light, their complexions appeared extremely different; which the present posture of their affairs gave them sudden opportunity to discover.

But here the severe reader may [80 justly tax me as a writer of short memory, a deficiency to which a true modern cannot but of necessity be a little subject. . . . I ought in method to have informed the reader, about fifty pages ago, of a fancy lord Peter took, and infused into his brothers, to wear on their coats whatever trimmings came up in fashion; never pulling off any as they went out of the mode, but keeping on all [90 together, which amounted in time to a medley the most antic you can possibly conceive; and this to a degree, that upon the time of their falling out there was hardly a thread of the original coat to be seen; but an infinite quantity of lace, and ribbons, and fringe, and embroidery, and points; I mean only those tagged with silver, for the rest fell off. Now this material circumstance, having been [100 forgot in due place, as good fortune hath ordered, comes in very properly here when the two brothers are just going to reform their vestures into the primitive state prescribed by their father's will.

They both unanimously entered upon this great work, looking sometimes on their coats, and sometimes on the will. Martin laid the first hand; at one twitch brought off a large handful of points; [110 and, with a second pull, stripped away ten dozen yards of fringe. But when he had gone thus far he demurred a while: he knew very well there yet remained a great deal more to be done; however, the first heat being over, his violence began to cool, and he resolved to proceed more mod-

erately in the rest of the work, having already narrowly escaped a swinging rent, in pulling off the points, which, being [120 tagged with silver (as we have observed before), the judicious workman had, with much sagacity, double sewn, to preserve them from falling. Resolving therefore to rid his coat of a huge quantity of gold lace, he picked up the stitches with much caution, and diligently gleaned out all the loose threads as he went, which proved to be a work of time. Then he fell about the embroidered Indian figures of [130 men, women, and children; against which, as you have heard in its due place, their father's testament was extremely exact and severe: these, with much dexterity and application, were, after a while, quite eradicated or utterly defaced. For the rest, where he observed the embroidery to be worked so close as not to be got away without damaging the cloth, or where it served to hide or strengthen [140 any flaw in the body of the coat, contracted by the perpetual tampering of workmen upon it, he concluded the wisest course was to let it remain, resolving in no case whatsoever that the substance of the stuff should suffer injury; which he thought the best method for serving the true intent and meaning of his father's will. And this is the nearest account I have been able to collect of Martin's [150 proceedings upon this great revolution.

But his brother Jack, whose adventures will be so extraordinary as to furnish a great part in the remainder of this discourse, entered upon the matter with other thoughts and a quite different spirit. For the memory of lord Peter's injuries produced a degree of hatred and spite which had a much greater share of inciting him than any regards after his [160 father's commands; since these appeared, at best, only secondary and subservient to the other. However, for this medley of humor he made a shift to find a very plausible name, honoring it with the title of zeal; which is perhaps the most significant word that has been ever yet produced in any language, as I think I have fully proved in my excellent analytical discourse upon that subject; wherein I [170 have deduced a histori-theo-physi-logical

account of zeal, showing how it first proceeded from a notion into a word, and thence, in a hot summer, ripened into a tangible substance. This work, containing three large volumes in folio, I design very shortly to publish by the modern way of subscription, not doubting but the nobility and gentry of the land will give me all possible encouragement; having [180 had already such a taste of what I am able to perform.

I record, therefore, that brother Jack, brimful of this miraculous compound, reflecting with indignation upon Peter's tyranny, and farther provoked by the despondency of Martin, prefaced his resolutions to this purpose. "What," said he, "a rogue that locked up his drink, turned away our wives, cheated us [190 of our fortunes; palmed his damned crusts upon us for mutton; and at last kicked us out of doors; must we be in his fashions, with a pox? A rascal, besides, that all the street cries out against." Having thus kindled and inflamed himself as high as possible, and by consequence in a delicate temper for beginning a reformation, he set about the work immediately; and in three minutes made more [200 despatch than Martin had done in as many hours. For, courteous reader, you are given to understand that zeal is never so highly obliged as when you set it a-tearing; and Jack, who doted on that quality in himself, allowed it at this time its full swing. Thus it happened that, stripping down a parcel of gold lace a little too hastily, he rent the main body of his coat from top to bottom; and [210 whereas his talent was not of the happiest in taking up a stitch, he knew no better way than to darn it again with packthread and a skewer. But the matter was yet infinitely worse (I record it with tears) when he proceeded to the embroidery: for, being clumsy by nature, and of temper impatient; withal, beholding millions of stitches that required the nicest hand and sedatest constitution to extricate, in [220 a great rage he tore off the whole piece, cloth and all, and flung them into the kennel, and furiously thus continuing his career: "Ah, good brother Martin," said he, "do as I do, for the love of God; strip,

tear, pull, rend, flay off all, that we may appear as unlike the rogue Peter as it is possible; I would not for a hundred pounds carry the least mark about me that might give occasion to the neighbors [230 of suspecting that I was related to such a rascal." But Martin, who at this time happened to be extremely phlegmatic and sedate, begged his brother, of all love, not to damage his coat by any means; for he never would get such another: desired him to consider that it was not their business to form their actions by any reflection upon Peter, but by observing the rules prescribed in their [240 father's will. That he should remember Peter was still their brother, whatever faults or injuries he had committed; and therefore they should by all means avoid such a thought as that of taking measures for good and evil from no other rule than of opposition to him. That it was true, the testament of their good father was very exact in what related to the wearing of their coats; yet it was no less [250 penal and strict in prescribing agreement, and friendship, and affection between them. And therefore, if straining a point were at all dispensable, it would certainly be so rather to the advance of unity than increase of contradiction. . . .

A MODEST PROPOSAL

FOR PREVENTING THE CHILDREN OF POOR PEOPLE IN IRELAND FROM BEING A BURDEN TO THEIR PARENTS OR COUNTRY, AND FOR MAKING THEM BENEFICIAL TO THE PUBLIC

It is a melancholy object to those who walk through this great town or travel in the country, when they see the streets, the roads, and cabin doors, crowded with beggars of the female sex, followed by three, four, or six children, all in rags and importuning every passenger for an alms. These mothers, instead of being able to work for their honest livelihood, are forced to employ all their time in [10 strolling to beg sustenance for their helpless infants: who as they grow up either turn thieves for want of work, or leave their dear native country to fight for the

pretender in Spain, or sell themselves to the Barbadoes.

I think it is agreed by all parties that this prodigious number of children in the arms, or on the backs, or at the heels of their mothers, and frequently of [20 their fathers, is in the present deplorable state of the kingdom a very great additional grievance; and, therefore, whoever could find out a fair, cheap, and easy method of making these children sound, useful members of the commonwealth, would deserve so well of the public as to have his statue set up for a preserver of the nation.

But my intention is very far from being confined to provide only for the children of professed beggars; it is of a much greater extent, and shall take in the whole number of infants at a certain age who are born of parents in effect as little able to support them as those who demand our charity in the streets.

As to my own part, having turned my thoughts for many years upon this important subject, and maturely weighed [40 the several schemes of other projectors, I have always found them grossly mistaken in the computation. It is true, a child just born may be supported by its mother's milk for a solar year, with little other nourishment; at most not above the value of 2s., which the mother may certainly get, or the value in scraps, by her lawful occupation of begging; and it is exactly at one year old that I [50 propose to provide for them in such a manner as instead of being a charge upon their parents or the parish, or wanting food and raiment for the rest of their lives, they shall on the contrary contribute to the feeding, and partly to the clothing, of many thousands. . . .

The number of souls in this kingdom being usually reckoned one million and a half, of these I calculate there may [60 be about two hundred thousand couple whose wives are breeders; from which number I subtract thirty thousand couples who are able to maintain their own children, although I apprehend there cannot be so many, under the present distresses of the kingdom; but this being granted, there will remain an hundred and sev-

enty thousand breeders. I again subtract fifty thousand for those women . . . [70 whose children die by accident or disease within the year. There only remains one hundred and twenty thousand children of poor parents annually born. The question therefore is, how this number shall be reared and provided for, which, as I have already said, under the present situation of affairs, is utterly impossible by all the methods hitherto proposed. For we can neither employ [80 them in handicraft or agriculture; we neither build houses (I mean in the country) nor cultivate land: they can very seldom pick up a livelihood by stealing, till they arrive at six years old, except where they are of towardly parts; although I confess they learn the rudiments much earlier, during which time, they can however be properly looked upon only as probationers, as I have been informed [90 by a principal gentleman in the county of Cavan, who protested to me that he never knew above one or two instances under the age of six, even in a part of the kingdom so renowned for the quickest proficiency in that art.

I am assured by our merchants, that a boy or a girl before twelve years old is no salable commodity; and even when they come to this age they will not [100 yield above three pounds, or three pounds and half-a-crown at most on the exchange; which cannot turn to account either to the parents or kingdom, the charge of nutriment and rags having been at least four times that value.

I shall now therefore humbly propose my own thoughts, which I hope will not be liable to the least objection.

I have been assured by a very [110 knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee or a ragout. . . . A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends; and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter [120 will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt will be very

good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter.

I have reckoned upon a medium that a child just born will weigh 12 pounds, and in a solar year, if tolerably nursed, increaseth to 28 pounds.

I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for [130] landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children. . . .

I have already computed the charge of nursing a beggar's child (in which list I reckon all cottagers, laborers, and four-fifths of the farmers) to be about two shillings per annum, rags included; and I believe no gentleman would repine to give ten shillings for the carcass of a [140] good fat child, which, as I have said, will make four dishes of excellent nutritive meat, when he hath only some particular friend or his own family to dine with him. Thus the squire will learn to be a good landlord, and grow popular among his tenants; the mother will have eight shillings net profit, and be fit for work till she produces another child.

Those who are more thrifty (as I [150] must confess the times require) may flay the carcass; the skin of which artificially dressed will make admirable gloves for ladies, and summer boots for fine gentlemen.

As to our city of Dublin, shambles may be appointed for this purpose in the most convenient parts of it, and butchers we may be assured will not be wanting; although I rather recommend buying [160] the children alive than dressing them hot from the knife as we do roasting pigs.

A very worthy person, a true lover of his country, and whose virtues I highly esteem, was lately pleased in discoursing on this matter to offer a refinement upon my scheme. He said that many gentlemen of this kingdom, having of late destroyed their deer, he conceived that the want of venison might be well supplied by the bodies of young lads and maidens, not exceeding fourteen years of age nor under twelve; so great a number of both sexes in every country being now ready to starve for want of work and service; and these to be disposed of by

their parents, if alive, or otherwise by their nearest relations. But with due deference to so excellent a friend and so deserving a patriot, I cannot be altogether [180] together in his sentiments; for as to the males, my American acquaintance assured me, from frequent experience, that their flesh was generally tough and lean, like that of our school-boys, by continual exercise, and their taste disagreeable; and to fatten them would not answer the charge. . . . And besides, it is not improbable that some scrupulous people might be apt to censure such a practice [190] (although indeed very unjustly), as a little bordering upon cruelty; which, I confess, hath always been with me the strongest objection against any project, however so well intended.

But in order to justify my friend, he confessed that this expedient was put into his head by the famous Psalmanazar, a native of the island Formosa, who came from thence to London above twenty [200] years ago, and in conversation told my friend, that in his country when any young person happened to be put to death, the executioner sold the carcass to persons of quality as a prime dainty; and that in his time the body of a plump girl of fifteen, who was crucified for an attempt to poison the emperor, was sold to his imperial majesty's prime minister of state, and other great mandarins of [210] the court, in joints from the gibbet, at four hundred crowns. Neither indeed can I deny, that if the same use were made of several plump young girls in this town, who without one single groat to their fortunes cannot stir abroad without a chair, and appear at playhouse and assemblies in foreign fineries which they never will pay for, the kingdom would not be the worse. [220]

Some persons of a desponding spirit are in great concern about that vast number of poor people, who are aged, diseased, or maimed, and I have been desired to employ my thoughts what course may be taken to ease the nation of so grievous an encumbrance. But I am not in the least pain upon that matter, because it is very well known that they are every day dying and rotting by [230]

cold and famine, and filth and vermin, as fast as can be reasonably expected. And as to the young laborers, they are now in as hopeful a condition; they cannot get work, and consequently pine away for want of nourishment, to a degree that if at any time they are accidentally hired to common labor, they have not strength to perform it; and thus the country and themselves are happily delivered from [240 the evils to come.

I have too long digressed, and therefore shall return to my subject. I think the advantages by the proposal which I have made are obvious and many, as well as of the highest importance.

For first, as I have already observed, it would greatly lessen the number of papists, with whom we are yearly overrun, being the principal breeders of [250 the nation as well as our most dangerous enemies; and who stay at home on purpose with a design to deliver the kingdom to the pretender, hoping to take their advantage by the absence of so many good protestants, who have chosen rather to leave their country than stay at home and pay tithes against their conscience to an episcopal curate.

Secondly, the poorer tenants will [260 have something valuable of their own, which by law may be made liable to distress and help to pay their landlord's rent, their corn and cattle being already seized, and money a thing unknown.

Thirdly, whereas the maintenance of an hundred thousand children, from two years old and upward, cannot be computed at less than ten shillings a-piece per annum, the nation's stock will be [270 thereby increased fifty thousand pounds per annum, beside the profit of a new dish introduced to the tables of all gentlemen of fortune in the kingdom who have any refinement in taste. And the money will circulate among ourselves, the goods being entirely of our own growth and manufacture.

Fourthly, the parents, beside the gain of eight shillings sterling per annum [280 by the sale of their children, will be rid of the charge of maintaining them after the first year.

Fifthly, this food would likewise bring

great custom to taverns; where the vintners will certainly be so prudent as to procure the best receipts for dressing it to perfection, and consequently have their houses frequented by all the fine gentlemen, who justly value themselves upon their knowledge in good eating: and a skilful cook, who understands how to oblige his guests, will contrive to make it as expensive as they please.

Sixthly, this would be a great inducement to marriage, which all wise nations have either encouraged by rewards or enforced by laws and penalties. It would increase the care and tenderness of mothers toward their children, when they [300 were sure of a settlement for life to the poor babes, provided in some sort by the public, to their annual profit instead of expense. We should see an honest emulation among the married women, which of them could bring the fattest child to the market. Men would become as fond of their wives during the time of their pregnancy as they are now of their mares in foal, their cows in calf, their sows [310 when they are ready to farrow; nor offer to beat or kick them (as is too frequent a practice) for fear of a miscarriage.

Many other advantages might be enumerated. For instance, the addition of some thousand carcasses in our exportation of barreled beef, the propagation of swine's flesh, and improvement in the art of making good bacon, so much wanted among us by the great destruction [320 of pigs, too frequent at our tables; which are no way comparable in taste or magnificence to a well-grown, fat, yearling child, which roasted whole will make a considerable figure at a lord mayor's feast or any other public entertainment. But this and many others I omit, being studious of brevity.

Supposing that one thousand families in this city would be constant customers for infant's flesh, beside others [330 who might have it at merry-meetings, particularly weddings and christenings, I compute that Dublin would take off annually about twenty thousand carcasses; and the rest of the kingdom (where probably they will be sold somewhat cheaper) the remaining eighty thousand.

I can think of no one objection that will possibly be raised against this [340 proposal, unless it should be urged that the number of people will be thereby much lessened in the kingdom. This I freely own, and was indeed one principal design in offering it to the world. I desire the reader will observe, that I calculate my remedy for this one individual kingdom of Ireland and for no other that ever was, is, or I think ever can be upon earth. Therefore let no man talk to [350 me of other expedients: of taxing our absentees at five shillings a pound; of using neither clothes nor household furniture except what is of our own growth and manufacture; of utterly rejecting the materials and instruments that promote foreign luxury; of curing the expensiveness of pride, vanity, idleness, and gaming in our women; of introducing a vein of parsimony, prudence, and tem- [360 perance; of learning to love our country, wherein we differ even from LAPLANDERS and the inhabitants of TOPINAMBOO; of quitting our animosities and factions, nor act any longer like the Jews, who were murdering one another at the very moment their city was taken; of being a little cautious not to sell our country and conscience for nothing; of teaching landlords to have at least one degree [370 of mercy toward their tenants; lastly, of putting a spirit of honesty, industry, and skill into our shopkeepers; who, if a resolution could now be taken to buy only our native goods, would immediately unite to cheat and exact upon us in the price, the measure, and the goodness, nor could ever yet be brought to make one fair proposal of just dealing, though often and earnestly invited to it. [380

Therefore I repeat, let no man talk to me of these and the like expedients, till he hath at least some glimpse of hope that there will be ever some hearty and sincere attempt to put them in practice.

But as to myself, having been wearied out for many years with offering vain, idle, visionary thoughts, and at length utterly despairing of success, I fortunately fell upon this proposal; which, as it [390 is wholly new, so it hath something solid and real, of no expense and little trouble,

full in our own power, and whereby we can incur no danger in disobliging ENGLAND. For this kind of commodity will not bear exportation, the flesh being of too tender a consistence to admit a long continuance in salt, although perhaps I could name a country which would be glad to eat up our whole nation with- [400 out it.

After all, I am not so violently bent upon my own opinion as to reject any offer proposed by wise men, which shall be found equally innocent, cheap, easy, and effectual. But before something of that kind shall be advanced in contradiction to my scheme, and offering a better, I desire the author or authors will be pleased maturely to consider two [410 points. First, as things now stand, how they will be able to find food and raiment for an hundred thousand useless mouths and backs. And secondly, there being a round million of creatures in human figure throughout this kingdom, whose whole subsistence put into a common stock would leave them in debt two millions of pounds sterling, adding those who are beggars by profession to the [420 bulk of farmers, cottagers, and laborers, with their wives and children who are beggars in effect: I desire those politicians who dislike my overture, and may perhaps be so bold as to attempt an answer, that they will first ask the parents of these mortals, whether they would not at this day think it a great happiness to have been sold for food at a year old in the manner I prescribe, and thereby have [430 avoided such a perpetual scene of misfortunes as they have since gone through by the oppression of landlords, the impossibility of paying rent without money or trade, the want of common sustenance, with neither house nor clothes to cover them from the inclemencies of the weather, and the most inevitable prospect of entailing the like or greater miseries upon their breed for ever. [440

I profess, in the sincerity of my heart, that I have not the least personal interest in endeavoring to promote this necessary work, having no other motive than the public good of my country, by advancing our trade, providing for infants, relieving

the poor, and giving some pleasure to the rich. I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine years old, and [450 my wife past child-bearing.

From THE JOURNAL TO STELLA

Sept. 30, 1710. Have not I brought myself into a fine premunire to begin writing letters in whole sheets? and now I dare not leave it off. I can't tell whether you like these journal letters: I believe they would be dull to me to read them over; but, perhaps, little MD is pleased to know how Presto passes his time in her absence. I always begin my last the same day I ended the former. I told [10 you where I dined to-day at a tavern with Stratford: Lewis, who is a great favorite of Harley's, was to have been with us; but he was hurried to Hampton Court, and sent his excuse, and that next Wednesday he would introduce me to Harley. 'Tis good to see what a lamentable confession the Whigs all make me of my ill usage; but I mind them not. I am already represented to Har- [20 ley as a discontented person, that was used ill for not being Whig enough; and I hope for good usage from him. The Tories dryly tell me, I may make my fortune, if I please; but I do not understand them, or rather, I *do* understand them.

Oct. 4. After I had put out my candle last night, my landlady came into my room, with a servant of Lord Halifax, [30 to desire I would go dine with him at his house near Hampton Court; but I sent him word I had business of great importance that hindered me, etc. And, to-day, I was brought privately to Mr. Harley, who received me with the greatest respect and kindness imaginable: he has appointed me an hour on Saturday at four, afternoon, when I will open my business to him. [40

Oct. 7. I wonder when this letter will be finished: it must go by Tuesday, that is certain; and if I have one from MD before, I will not answer it, that's as certain too! 'Tis now morning, and I did not finish my papers for Mr. Harley last

night; for you must understand Presto was sleepy, and made blunders and blots. Very pretty that I must be writing to young women in a morning fresh and [50 fasting, faith. Well, good morrow to you: and so I go to business, and lay aside this paper till night, sirrahs. —At night. Jack How told Harley, that if there were a lower place in hell than another, it was reserved for his porter, who tells lies so gravely, and with so civil a manner. This porter I have had to deal with, going this evening at four to visit Mr. Harley, by his own appointment. [60 But the fellow told me no lie, though I suspected every word he said. He told me his master was just gone to dinner, with much company, and desired I would come an hour hence, which I did, expecting to hear Mr. Harley was gone out; but they had just done dinner. Mr. Harley came out to me, brought me in, and presented me to his son-in-law, Lord Doblane (or some such name), and his [70 own son, and among others, Will Penn the Quaker: we sat two hours, drinking as good wine as you do; and two hours more he and I alone; where he heard me tell my business; asked for my powers, and read them; and read likewise a memorial I had drawn up, and put it in his pocket to show the Queen; told me the measures he would take; and, in short, said everything I could wish; told me he must [80 bring Mr. St. John (Secretary of State) and me acquainted; and spoke so many things of personal kindness and esteem for me, that I am inclined half to believe what some friends have told me, that he would do everything to bring me over. He has desired to dine with me (what a comical mistake was that), I mean, he has desired me to dine with him on Tuesday; and after four hours being with him, [90 set me down at St. James's Coffeehouse, in a hackney coach. All this is odd and comical if you consider him and me. He knew my Christian name very well. I could not forbear saying thus much upon this matter, although you will think it tedious. But I will tell you; you must know, 'tis fatal to me to be a scoundrel and a prince the same day: for being to see him at four, I could not engage [100

myself to dine at any friend's; so I went to Tooke, to give him a ballad and dine with him; but he was not at home; so I was forced to go to a blind chop house, and dine for tenpence upon gill ale, bad broth, and three chops of mutton; and then go reeking from thence to the first minister of state. And now I am going in charity to send Steele a Tatler, who is very low of late. I think I am civiler than I used [110 to be; and have not used the expression of "*you in Ireland*" and "*we in England*," as I did when I was here before, to your great indignation.—They may talk of the *you know what*; but, gad, if it had not been for that, I should never have been able to get the access I have had; and if that helps me to succeed, then that *same thing* will be serviceable to the church. But how far we must depend upon [120 new friends, I have learned by long practice, though I think, among great ministers, they are just as good as old ones. And so I think this important day has made a great hole in this side of the paper; and the fiddle faddles of to-morrow and Monday will make up the rest; and, besides, I shall see Harley on Tuesday before this letter goes.

Feb. 4, 1711. I went to Mr. Addison's, and dined with him at his lodgings; I had not seen him these three weeks; we are grown common acquaintance: yet what have I not done for his friend Steele? Mr. Harley reproached me the last time I saw him, that to please me, he would be reconciled to Steele, and had promised and appointed to see him, and that Steele never came. Harrison, whom Mr. Addison recommended to me, I have introduced to [140 the Secretary of State, who has promised me to take care of him; and I have represented Addison himself so to the ministry, that they think and talk in his favor, though they hated him before.—Well; he is now in my debt, and there's an end; and I never had the least obligation to him, and there's another end. This evening I had a message from Mr. Harley, desiring to know whether I was alive, [150 and that I would dine with him to-morrow. They dine so late, that since my head has been wrong, I have avoided being with them.

Feb. 6. Mr. Harley desired I would dine with him again to-day; but I refused him, for I fell out with him yesterday, and will not see him again till he makes me amends; and so I go to bed. [160

Feb. 7. I was this morning early with Mr. Lewis of the Secretary's office, and saw a letter Mr. Harley had sent to him, desiring to be reconciled; but I was deaf to all entreaties, and have desired Lewis to go to him, and let him know I expect farther satisfaction. If we let these great ministers pretend too much, there will be no governing them. He promises to make me easy, if I will but come and see [170 him; but I won't, and he shall do it by message, or I will cast him off. I'll tell you the cause of our quarrel when I see you, and refer it to yourselves. In that he did something, which he intended for a favor, and I have taken it quite otherwise, disliking both the thing and the manner, and it has heartily vexed me, and all I have said is truth, though it looks like jest; and I absolutely re- [180 fused to submit to his intended favor, and expect further satisfaction.

Feb. 13. I have taken Mr. Harley into favor again.

June 30, 1711. We have plays acted in our town, and Patrick was at one of them, oh, oh. He was damnably mauled one day when he was drunk; he was at cuffs with a brother footman, who dragged him along the floor on his [190 face, which looked for a week after as if he had the leprosy; and I was glad enough to see it. I have been ten times sending him over to you; yet now he has new clothes, and a laced hat, which the hatter brought by his orders, and he offered to pay for the lace out of his wages. Farewell, my dearest lives and lights, I love you better than ever, if possible, as hope saved, I do, and ever will. [200 God Almighty bless you ever, and make us happy together; I pray for this twice every day; and I hope God will hear my poor hearty prayers. Remember, if I am used ill and ungratefully, as I have formerly been, 'tis what I am prepared for, and shall not wonder at it. Yet, I am now envied, and thought in high favor,

and have every day numbers of considerable men teasing me to solicit [210 for them. And the ministry all use me perfectly well, and all that know them say they love me. Yet I can count upon nothing, nor will, but upon MD's love and kindness. They think me useful; they pretended they were afraid of none but me; and that they resolved to have me; they have often confessed this: yet all makes little impression on me. Pox of these speculations! they give me [220 the spleen; and that is a disease I was not born to.—Let me alone, sirrahs, and be satisfied: I am, as long as MD and Presto are well:

Little wealth,
And much health,
And a life by stealth;

that is all we want; and so, farewell, dearest MD; Stella, Dingley, Presto, all together, now and forever all together. Farewell again and again.

May 31, 1712. I'll say no more to oo tonite, sellohs, because I must send away the letter, not by the bell, but early: and besides, I have not much more to say at zis plesent liting. Does MD never read at all now, pee? But oo walk plodigiousry, I suppose,—You make nothing of walking to, to, to, ay, to Donybrook. I walk too as much as I can, [240 because sweating is good; but I'll walk more if I go to Kensington. I suppose I shall have no apples this year neither, for I dined t'other day with Lord Rivers, who is sick at his country house, and he showed me all his cherries blasted. Nite deeleast sollahs; farewell deeleast Rives; rove poor Pdfr. Farewell deeleast richar MD, MD, MD, FW, FW, FW, FW, FW, ME, ME, Lele, ME, Lele, Lele, [250 richar MD.

Nov. 15, 1712. Before this comes to your hands, you will have heard of the most terrible accident that hath almost ever happened. This morning at eight, my man brought me word that Duke of Hamilton had fought with Lord Mohun, and killed him, and was brought home wounded. I immediately sent him to the Duke's house, in St. James's Square; [260 but the porter could hardly answer for

tears, and a great rabble was about the house. In short, they fought at seven this morning. The dog Mohun was killed on the spot; and while the Duke was over him, Mohun shortening his sword, stabbed him in at the shoulder to the heart. The Duke was helped toward the cake-house by the ring in Hyde Park (where they fought), and died on the [270 grass, before he could reach the house; and was brought home in his coach by eight, while the poor Duchess was asleep. Macartney, and one Hamilton, were the seconds, who fought likewise, and are both fled. I am told, that a footman of Lord Mohun's stabbed Duke of Hamilton; and some say Macartney did so too. Mohun gave the affront, and yet sent the challenge. I am infinitely concerned [280 for the poor Duke, who was a frank, honest, good-natured man. I loved him very well, and I think he loved me better. He had the greatest mind in the world to have me go with him to France, but durst not tell it to me; and those he did, said I could not be spared, which was true. They have removed the poor Duchess to a lodging in the neighborhood, where I have been with her two [290 hours, and am just come away. I never saw so melancholy a scene; for indeed all reasons for real grief belong to her; nor is it possible for any body to be a greater loser in all regards. She has moved my very soul. The lodging was inconvenient, and they would have removed her to another; but I would not suffer it, because it had no room backward, and she must have been tortured with [300 the noise of the Grub Street screamers mentioning her husband's murder to her ears.

I believe you have heard the story of my escape, in opening the ben-box sent to Lord-Treasurer. The prints have told a thousand lies of it; but at last we gave them a true account of it at length, printed in the evening; only I would not suffer them to name me, having been [310 so often named before, and teased to death with questions. I wonder how I came to have so much presence of mind, which is usually not my talent; but so it pleased God, and I saved myself and him;

for there was a bullet apiece. A gentleman told me, that if I had been killed, the Whigs would have called it a judgment, because the barrels were of ink-horns, with which I had done them [320 so much mischief. There was a pure Grub Street of it, full of lies and inconsistencies. I do not like these things at all, and I wish myself more and more among my willows. There is a devilish spirit among people, and the ministry must exert themselves, or sink. Nite dee sollahs, I'll go seep.

Nov. 16. I thought to have finished this yesterday, but was too much [330 disturbed. I sent a letter early this morning to Lady Masham, to beg her to write some comforting words to the poor Duchess. I dined to-day with Lady Masham at Kensington. She has promised me to get the Queen to write to the Duchess kindly on this occasion; and to-morrow I will beg Lord-Treasurer to visit and comfort her. I have been with her two hours again, and find her [340 worse. Her violences not so frequent, but her melancholy more formal and settled. She has abundance of wit and spirit; about thirty-three years old; handsome and airy, and seldom spared anybody that gave her the least provocation; by which she had many enemies, and few friends. Lady Orkney, her sister-in-law, is come to town on this occasion, and behaved herself with great humanity. [350 They have always been very ill together, and the poor Duchess could not have patience when people told her I went often to Lady Orkney's. But I am resolved to make them friends; for the Duchess is now no more the object of envy, and must learn humility from the severest master, Affliction. I design to make the ministry put out a proclamation (if it can be found proper) against [360 that villain Macartney. What shall we do with these murderers? I cannot end this letter to-night, and there is no occasion; for I cannot send it till Tuesday, and the coroner's inquest on the Duke's body is to be to-morrow, and I shall know no more. But what care oo for all this? Iss, MD im sorry for poo Pdfr's friends; and this is a very surprising event. "Tis

late, and I'll go to bed. This looks [370 like journals. Nite.

Nov. 18. The committee of council is to sit this afternoon upon the affair of Duke of Hamilton's murder, and I hope a proclamation will be out against Macartney. I was just now ('tis now noon) with the Duchess, to let her know Lord-Treasurer will see her. She is mightily out of order. The jury have not yet brought in their verdict upon the coroner's inquest. We suspect Macartney stabbed the Duke while he was fighting. The Queen and Lord-Treasurer are in great concern at this event. I dine to-day again with Lord-Treasurer; but must send this to the post-office before, because else I shall not have time; he usually keeps me so late.

JOSEPH ADDISON (1672-1719)

From THE CAMPAIGN, A POEM TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH

But, O my muse, what numbers wilt
thou find
To sing the furious troops in battle joined!
Methinks I hear the drum's tumultuous
sound 275
The victor's shouts and dying groans con-
found,
The dreadful burst of cannon rend the
skies,
And all the thunder of the battle rise!
'Twas then great Marlborough's mighty
soul was proved.
That, in the shock of charging hosts un-
moved, 280
Amidst confusion, horror, and despair,
Examined all the dreadful scenes of war;
In peaceful thought the field of death sur-
veyed,
To fainting squadrons sent the timely aid,
Inspired repulsed battalions to engage, 285
And taught the doubtful battle where to
rage.
So when an angel by divine command
With rising tempests shakes a guilty land,
Such as of late o'er pale Britannia past,
Calm and serene he drives the furious
blast, 290

And, pleased the Almighty's orders to perform,
Rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm.

HYMN

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
Th' unwearied Sun from day to day 5
Does his Creator's power display;
And publishes to every land
The work of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The Moon takes up the wondrous tale; 10
And nightly to the listening Earth
Repeats the story of her birth:
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll, 15
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
What though no real voice nor sound
Amidst their radiant orbs be found? 20
In Reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
Forever singing as they shine,
"The Hand that made us is divine."

JOSEPH ADDISON (1672-1719) AND
RICHARD STEELE (1672-1729)

From THE TATLER

PROSPECTUS

No. 1. Tuesday, April 12, 1709

*Quicquid agunt homines—
—nostri est farrago libelli.
Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.*

*Whate'er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
Our motley paper seizes for its theme.—Pope.*

Though the other papers, which are published for the use of the good people of England, have certainly very wholesome effects, and are laudable in their particular

kinds, they do not seem to come up to the main design of such narrations, which, I humbly presume, should be principally intended for the use of politic persons, who are so public-spirited as to neglect their own affairs to look into trans- [10] actions of state. Now these gentlemen, for the most part, being persons of strong zeal, and weak intellects, it is both a charitable and necessary work to offer something, whereby such worthy and well-affected members of the commonwealth may be instructed, after their reading, what to think; which shall be the end and purpose of this my paper, wherein I shall, from time to time, [20] report and consider all matters of what kind soever that shall occur to me, and publish such my advices and reflections every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the week, for the convenience of the post. I resolve to have something which may be of entertainment to the fair sex, in honor of whom I have invented the title of this paper. I therefore earnestly desire all persons, without distinc- [30] tion, to take it in for the present *gratis*, and hereafter at the price of one penny, forbidding all hawkers to take more for it at their peril. And I desire all persons to consider, that I am at a very great charge for proper materials for this work, as well as that, before I resolved upon it, I had settled a correspondence in all parts of the known and knowing world. And forasmuch as this globe is not trodden [40] upon by mere drudges of business only, but that men of spirit and genius are justly to be esteemed as considerable agents in it, we shall not, upon a dearth of news, present you with musty foreign edicts, and dull proclamations, but shall divide our relation of the passages which occur in action or discourse throughout this town, as well as elsewhere, under such dates of places as may prepare [50] you for the matter you are to expect in the following manner.

All accounts of gallantry, pleasure, and entertainment, shall be under the article of White's Chocolate-house; poetry, under that of Will's Coffee-house; learning, under the title of Grecian; foreign and domestic news, you will have from St.

James's Coffee-house; and what else I have to offer on any other subject [60 shall be dated from my own Apartment.

I once more desire my reader to consider, that as I cannot keep an ingenious man to go daily to Will's under two-pence each day, merely for his charges; to White's under six-pence; nor to the Grecian, without allowing him some plain Spanish, to be as able as others at the learned table; and that a good observer cannot speak with even Kidney at [70 St. James's without clean linen; I say, these considerations will, I hope, make all persons willing to comply with my humble request (when my *gratis* stock is exhausted) of a penny apiece; especially since they are sure of some proper amusement, and that it is impossible for me to want means to entertain them, having, besides the force of my own parts, the power of divination, and that I can, by [80 casting a figure, tell you all that will happen before it comes to pass.

But this last faculty I shall use very sparingly, and speak but of few things until they are passed, for fear of divulging matters which may offend our superiors. * * *

—STEELE.

DUELLING

No. 25. Tuesday, June 7, 1709.

Quicquid agunt homines—

—nostri est farrago libelli.

Juv. Sat. i. 85, 86.

*Whate'er men do, or say, or think, or dream,
Our motley paper seizes for its theme.—Pope.*

WHITE'S CHOCOLATE-HOUSE, June 6.

A letter from a young lady, written in the most passionate terms, wherein she laments the misfortune of a gentleman, her lover, who was lately wounded in a duel, has turned my thoughts to that subject, and inclined me to examine into the causes which precipitate men into so fatal a folly. And as it has been proposed to treat of subjects of gallantry in the article from hence, and no one [10 point in nature is more proper to be considered by the company who frequent this place than that of duels, it is worth

our consideration to examine into this chimerical groundless humor, and to lay every other thought aside, until we have stripped it of all its false pretences to credit and reputation amongst men.

But I must confess, when I consider what I am going about, and run over in [20 my imagination all the endless crowd of men of honor who will be offended at such a discourse, I am undertaking, methinks, a work worthy an invulnerable hero in romance, rather than a private gentleman with a single rapier: but as I am pretty well acquainted by great opportunities with the nature of man, and know of a truth that all men fight against their will, the danger vanishes, [30 and resolution rises upon this subject. For this reason I shall talk very freely on a custom which all men wish exploded, though no man has courage enough to resist it.

But there is one unintelligible word, which I fear will extremely perplex my dissertation, and I must confess to you I find very hard to explain, which is the term "satisfaction." An honest [40 country gentleman had the misfortune to fall into company with two or three modern men of honor, where he happened to be very ill-treated; and one of the company, being conscious of his offense, sends a note to him in the morning, and tells him, he was ready to give him satisfaction. "This is fine doing," says the plain fellow; "last night he sent me away cursedly out of humor, and [50 this morning he fancies it would be a satisfaction to be run through the body."

As the matter at present stands, it is not to do handsome actions denominates a man of honor; it is enough if he dares to defend ill ones. Thus you often see a common sharper in competition with a gentleman of the first rank; though all mankind is convinced that a fighting gamester is only a pick-pocket with [60 the courage of a highwayman. One cannot with any patience reflect on the unaccountable jumble of persons and things in this town and nation, which occasions very frequently that a brave man falls by a hand below that of a common hangman, and yet his executioner escapes the

clutches of the hangman for doing it. I shall therefore hereafter consider, how the bravest men in other ages and nations have behaved themselves upon such incidents as we decide by combat; and show, from their practice, that this resentment neither has its foundation from true reason or solid fame; but is an imposture, made of cowardice, falsehood, and want of understanding. For this work, a good history of quarrels would be very edifying to the public, and I apply myself to the town for particulars and circumstances within their knowledge, which may serve to embellish the dissertation with proper cuts. Most of the quarrels I have ever known, have proceeded from some valiant coxcomb's persisting in the wrong, to defend some prevailing folly, and preserve himself from the ingenuity of owning a mistake.

By this means it is called "giving a man satisfaction," to urge your offense against him with your sword; which puts me in mind of Peter's order to the keeper in *The Tale of a Tub*: "If you neglect to do all this, damn you and your generation for ever: and so we bid you heartily farewell." If the contradiction in the very terms of one of our challenges were as well explained and turned into downright English, would it not run after this manner?

"Sir,

Your extraordinary behavior last night, and the liberty you were pleased to take with me, makes me this morning give you this, to tell you, because you are an ill-bred puppy, I will meet you in Hyde-park, an hour hence; and because you want both breeding and humanity, I desire you would come with a pistol in your hand, on horseback, and endeavor to shoot me through the head, to teach you more manners. If you fail of doing me this pleasure, I shall say, you are a rascal, on every post in town: and so, sir, if you will not injure me more, I shall never forgive what you have done already. Pray, sir, do not fail of getting everything ready; and you will infinitely oblige, sir, your most obedient humble servant, etc." * * *

[100

—STEELE.

NED SOFTLY

No. 163. Tuesday, April 25, 1710.

*Idem inficeto est inficetior rure,
Simul poemata attigit; neque idem unquam
Equè est beatus, ac poema cum scribit:
Tam gaudet in se, tamque se ipse miratur.
Nimirum idem omnes fallimur; neque est
quisquam*

*Quem non in aliquâ re videre Suffenum
Possis—*

Catul. de Suffeno, xv. 14.

Suffenus has no more wit than a mere clown when he attempts to write verses, and yet he is never happier than when he is scribbling; so much does he admire himself and his compositions. And, indeed, this is the foible of every one of us, for there is no man living who is not a Suffenus in one thing or other.

WILL'S COFFEE HOUSE, April 24.

I yesterday came hither about two hours before the company generally make their appearance, with a design to read over all the newspapers; but, upon my sitting down, I was accosted by Ned Softly, who saw me from a corner in the other end of the room, where I found he had been writing something. "Mr. Bickerstaff," says he, "I observe by a late Paper of yours, that you and I are just of a humor; for you must know, of all impertinences, there is nothing which I so much hate as news. I never read a Gazette in my life; and never trouble my head about our armies, whether they win or lose, or in what part of the world they lie encamped." Without giving me time to reply, he drew a paper of verses out of his pocket, telling me, "that he had something which would entertain me more agreeably; and that he would desire my judgment upon every line, for that we had time enough before us until the company came in."

Ned Softly is a very pretty poet, and a great admirer of easy lines. Waller is his favorite: and as that admirable writer has the best and worst verses of any among our great English poets, Ned Softly has got all the bad ones without book; which he repeats upon occasion, to show

his reading, and garnish his conversation. Ned is indeed a true English reader, incapable of relishing the great and masterly strokes of this art; but wonderfully pleased with the little Gothic ornaments of epigrammatical conceits, turns, points, and quibbles, which are so frequent in the most admired of our English poets, and practised by those who want genius [40 and strength to represent, after the manner of the ancients, simplicity in its natural beauty and perfection.

Finding myself unavoidably engaged in such a conversation, I was resolved to turn my pain into a pleasure, and to divert myself as well as I could with so very odd a fellow. "You must understand," says Ned, "that the sonnet I am going to read to you was written upon a [50 lady, who showed me some verses of her own making, and is, perhaps, the best poet of our age. But you shall hear it."

Upon which he began to read as follows:

TO MIRA ON HER INCOMPARABLE POEMS.

When dressed in laurel wreaths you shine,
And tune your soft melodious notes,
You seem a sister of the Nine,
Or Phœbus' self in petticoats.

I fancy, when your song you sing, [60
(Your song you sing with so much art)
Your pen was plucked from Cupid's wing;
For, ah! it wounds me like his dart.

"Why," says I, "this is a little nosegay of conceits, a very lump of salt: every verse has something in it that piques; and then the *dart* in the last line is certainly as pretty a sting in the tail of an epigram, for so I think you critics call it, as ever entered into the thought of a poet." [70 "Dear Mr. Bickerstaff," says he, shaking me by the hand, "everybody knows you to be a judge of these things; and to tell you truly, I read over Roscommon's translation of 'Horace's Art of Poetry' three several times, before I sat down to write the sonnet which I have shown you. But you shall hear it again, and pray observe every line of it; for not one of them shall pass without your approba- [80 tion.

When dressed in laurel wreaths you shine.

"That is," says he, "when you have your garland on; when you are writing verses." To which I replied, "I know your meaning: a metaphor!" "The same," said he, and went on:

"And tune your soft melodious notes.

"Pray observe the gliding of that verse; there is scarce a consonant in it: I [90 took care to make it run upon liquids. Give me your opinion of it." "Truly," said I, "I think it as good as the former." "I am very glad to hear you say so," says he; "but mind the next:

You seem a sister of the Nine.

"That is," says he, "you seem a sister of the Muses; for, if you look into ancient authors, you will find it was their opinion that there were nine of them." "I [100 remember it very well," said I; "but pray proceed."

"Or Phœbus' self in petticoats.

"Phœbus," says he, "was the god of poetry. These little instances, Mr. Bickerstaff, show a gentleman's reading. Then, to take off from the air of learning, which Phœbus and the Muses had given to this first stanza, you may observe, how it falls all of a sudden into the familiar; [110 'in Petticoats'!

Or Phœbus' self in petticoats."

"Let us now," says I, "enter upon the second stanza; I find the first line is still a continuation of the metaphor:

I fancy, when your song you sing."

"It is very right," says he, "but pray observe the turn of words in those two lines. I was a whole hour in adjusting of them, and have still a doubt upon [120 me, whether in the second line it should be 'Your song you sing;' or, 'You sing your song.' You shall hear them both:

I fancy, when your song you sing,
(Your song you sing with so much art)
or

I fancy, when your song you sing,
(You sing your song with so much art.)"

"Truly," said I, "the turn is so natural either way, that you have made me [130

almost giddy with it." "Dear sir," said he, grasping me by the hand, "you have a great deal of patience; but pray what do you think of the next verse?"

Your pen was plucked from Cupid's wing."

"Think!" says I; "I think you have made Cupid look like a little goose." "That was my meaning," says he: "I think the ridicule is well enough hit off. But we come now to the last, which [140 sums up the whole matter:

For, ah! it wounds me like his dart.

"Pray, how do you like that *Ah!* doth it not make a pretty figure in that place? *Ah!*—it looks as if I felt the dart, and cried out as being pricked with it!

For, ah! it wounds me like his dart.

"My friend Dick Easy," continued he, "assured me, he would rather have written that *Ah!* than to have been the author of the *Æneid*. He indeed objected, that I made Mira's pen like a quill in one of the lines, and like a dart in the other. But as to that—" "Oh! as to that," says I, "it is but supposing Cupid to be like a porcupine, and his quills and darts will be the same thing." He was going to embrace me for the hint; but half a dozen critics coming into the room, whose faces he did not like, he conveyed the sonnet [160 into his pocket, and whispered me in the ear, "he would show it me again as soon as his man had written it over fair."

—ADDISON.

FROZEN WORDS

No. 254. Thursday, November 23, 1710.

Splendidè mendax—.

Hor. 2 Od. iii. 35.

Gloriously false—.

Francis.

MY OWN APARTMENT, November 22.

There are no books which I more delight in than in travels, especially those that describe remote countries, and give the writer an opportunity of showing his parts without incurring any danger of

being examined or contradicted. Among all the authors of this kind, our renowned countryman, Sir John Mandeville, has distinguished himself by the copiousness of his invention and the greatness of [10 his genius. The second to Sir John I take to have been Ferdinand Mendez Pinto, a person of infinite adventure, and unbounded imagination. One reads the voyages of these two great wits, with as much astonishment as the travels of Ulysses in Homer, or of the Red-Cross Knight in Spenser. All is enchanted ground, and fairyland.

I have got into my hands, by great [20 chance, several manuscripts of these two eminent authors, which are filled with greater wonders than any of those they have communicated to the public; and indeed, were they not so well attested, they would appear altogether improbable. I am apt to think the ingenious authors did not publish them with the rest of their works, lest they should pass for fictions and fables: a caution not unnecessary, [30 when the reputation of their veracity was not yet established in the world. But as this reason has now no farther weight, I shall make the public a present of these curious pieces, at such times as I shall find myself unprovided with other subjects.

The present paper I intend to fill with an extract from Sir John's Journal, in which that learned and worthy knight [40 gives an account of the freezing and thawing of several short speeches, which he made in the territories of Nova Zembla. I need not inform my reader, that the author of "*Hudibras*" alludes to this strange quality in that cold climate, when, speaking of abstracted notions clothed in a visible shape, he adds that apt simile,

"Like words congealed in northern air." 50

Not to keep my reader any longer in suspense, the relation put into modern language, is as follows:

"We were separated by a storm in the latitude of seventy-three, insomuch, that only the ship which I was in, with a Dutch and French vessel, got safe into a creek

of Nova Zembla. We landed, in order to refit our vessels, and store ourselves with provisions. The crew of each vessel made themselves a cabin of turf and wood, at some distance from each other, to fence themselves against the inclemencies of the weather, which was severe beyond imagination. We soon observed, that in talking to one another we lost several of our words, and could not hear one another at above two yards distance, and that too when we sat very near the fire. After much perplexity, I found [70 that our words froze in the air, before they could reach the ears of the persons to whom they were spoken. I was soon confirmed in this conjecture, when, upon the increase of the cold, the whole company grew dumb, or rather deaf; for every man was sensible, as we afterwards found, that he spoke as well as ever; but the sounds no sooner took air than they were condensed and lost. It was now [80 a miserable spectacle to see us nodding and gaping at one another, every man talking, and no man heard. One might observe a seaman that could hail a ship at a league's distance, beckoning with his hand, straining his lungs, and tearing his throat; but all in vain:

“—*Nec vox nec verba sequuntur.*

OID, *Met.* xi. 326.

“Nor voice, nor words, ensued.

“We continued here three weeks [90 in this dismal plight. At length, upon a turn of wind, the air about us began to thaw. Our cabin was immediately filled with a dry clattering sound, which I afterwards found to be the crackling of consonants that broke above our heads, and were often mixed with a gentle hissing, which I imputed to the letter *s*, that occurs so frequently in the English tongue. I soon after felt a breeze of whispers [100 rushing by my ear; for those, being of a soft and gentle substance, immediately liquefied in the warm wind that blew across our cabin. These were soon followed by syllables and short words, and at length by entire sentences, that melted sooner or later, as they were more or less congealed; so that we now heard every

thing that had been *spoken* during the whole three weeks that we had been [110 *silent*, if I may use that expression. It was now very early in the morning, and yet, to my surprise, I heard somebody say, ‘Sir John, it is midnight, and time for the ship’s crew to go to bed.’ This I knew to be the pilot’s voice; and, upon recollecting myself, I concluded that he had spoken these words to me some days before, though I could not hear them until the present thaw. My reader [120 will easily imagine how the whole crew was amazed to hear every man talking, and see no man opening his mouth. In the midst of this great surprise we were all in, we heard a volley of oaths and curses, lasting for a long while, and uttered in a very hoarse voice, which I knew belonged to the boatswain, who was a very choleric fellow, and had taken his opportunity of cursing and swearing at me, when he [130 thought I could not hear him; for I had several times given him the strappado on that account, as I did not fail to repeat it for these his pious soliloquies, when I got him on shipboard.

“I must not omit the names of several beauties in Wapping, which were heard every now and then, in the midst of a long sigh that accompanied them; as, ‘Dear Kate!’ ‘Pretty Mrs. Peggy!’ [140 ‘When shall I see my Sue again!’ This betrayed several amours which had been concealed until that time, and furnished us with a great deal of mirth in our return to England.

“When this confusion of voices was pretty well over, though I was afraid to offer at speaking, as fearing I should not be heard, I proposed a visit to the Dutch cabin, which lay about a mile [150 farther up in the country. My crew were extremely rejoiced to find they had again recovered their hearing; though every man uttered his voice with the same apprehensions that I had done,

“—*Et timide verba intermissa retentat.*

OID, *Met.* i. 746.

“And tried his tongue, his silence softly broke.

“At about half-a-mile’s distance from our cabin we heard the groanings of a bear,

which at first startled us; but, upon [160 enquiry, we were informed by some of our company, that he was dead, and now lay in salt, having been killed upon that very spot about a fortnight before, in the time of the frost. Not far from the same place, we were likewise entertained with some posthumous snarls and barkings of a fox.

"We at length arrived at the little Dutch settlement; and, upon entering [170 the room, found it filled with sighs that smelt of brandy, and several other unsavory sounds, that were altogether inarticulate. My valet, who was an Irishman, fell into so great a rage at what he heard, that he drew his sword; but not knowing where to lay the blame, he put it up again. We were stunned with these confused noises, but did not hear a single word until about half-an-hour after; [180 which I ascribed to the harsh and obdurate sounds of that language, which wanted more time than ours to melt, and become audible.

"After having here met with a very hearty welcome, we went to the cabin of the French, who, to make amends for their three weeks' silence, were talking and disputing with greater rapidity and confusion than I ever heard in an [190 assembly, even of that nation. Their language, as I found, upon the first giving of the weather, fell asunder and dissolved. I was here convinced of an error, into which I had before fallen; for I fancied, that for the freezing of the sound, it was necessary for it to be wrapped up, and, as it were, preserved in breath: but I found my mistake when I heard the sound of a kit playing a minuet over [200 our heads. I asked the occasion of it; upon which one of the company told me that it would play there above a week longer; 'for,' says he, 'finding ourselves bereft of speech, we prevailed upon one of the company, who had his musical instrument about him, to play to us from morning to night; all which time was employed in dancing in order to dissipate our chagrin, and *tuer le temps*.'" [210

Here Sir John gives very good philosophical reasons, why the kit could not be heard during the frost; but, as they are

something prolix, I pass them over in silence, and shall only observe, that the honorable author seems, by his quotations, to have been well versed in the ancient poets, which perhaps raised his fancy above the ordinary pitch of historians, and very much contributed to [220 the embellishment of his writings.

—ADDISON.

From THE SPECTATOR

MR. SPECTATOR

No. 1. Thursday, March 1, 1711.

Non fumum ex fulgore, sed ex fumo dare lucem

Cogitat, ut speciosa dehinc miracula promat.
Hor. Ars Poet. 143.

*One with a flash begins, and ends in smoke;
Another out of smoke brings glorious light,
And, without raising expectation high,
Surprises us with dazzling miracles.*

—ROSCOMMON.

I have observed that a reader seldom peruses a book with pleasure, till he knows whether the writer of it be a black or a fair man, of a mild or choleric disposition, married or a bachelor, with other particulars of the like nature, that conduce very much to the right understanding of an author. To gratify this curiosity, which is so natural to a reader, I design this paper, and my next, [10 as prefatory discourses to my following writings, and shall give some account in them of the several persons that are engaged in this work. As the chief trouble of compiling, digesting, and correcting will fall to my share, I must do myself the justice to open the work with my own history.

I was born to a small hereditary estate, which, according to the tradition [20 of the village where it lies, was bounded by the same hedges and ditches in William the Conqueror's time that it is at present, and has been delivered down from father to son whole and entire, without the loss or acquisition of a single field or meadow, during the space of six hundred years. There runs a story in

the family that when my mother was gone with child of me about three [30 months, she dreamt that she was brought to bed of a judge. Whether this might proceed from a law-suit which was then depending in the family, or my father's being a justice of the peace, I cannot determine; for I am not so vain as to think it presaged any dignity that I should arrive at in my future life, though that was the interpretation which the neighborhood put upon it. The gravity of [40 my behavior at my very first appearance in the world seemed to favor my mother's dream; for, as she often told me, I threw away my rattle before I was two months old, and would not make use of my coral until they had taken away the bells from it.

As for the rest of my infancy, there being nothing in it remarkable, I shall pass it over in silence. I find that [50 during my nonage I had the reputation of a very sullen youth, but was always a favorite of my schoolmaster, who used to say, that my parts were solid, and would wear well. I had not been long at the university, before I distinguished myself by a most profound silence; for, during the space of eight years, excepting in the public exercises of the college, I scarce uttered the quantity of a [60 hundred words; and indeed do not remember that I ever spoke three sentences together in my whole life. Whilst I was in this learned body, I applied myself with so much diligence to my studies, that there are very few celebrated books, either in the learned or the modern tongues, which I am not acquainted with.

Upon the death of my father, I was resolved to travel into foreign coun- [70 tries, and therefore left the university, with the character of an odd unaccountable fellow, that had a great deal of learning, if I would but show it. An insatiable thirst after knowledge carried me into all the countries of Europe, in which there was anything new or strange to be seen; nay, to such a degree was my curiosity raised, that having read the controversies of some great men concerning the an- [80 tiquities of Egypt, I made a voyage to Grand Cairo, on purpose to take the

measure of a pyramid; and as soon as I had set myself right in that particular, returned to my native country with great satisfaction.

I have passed my latter years in this city, where I am frequently seen in most public places, though there are not above half a dozen of my select friends that [90 know me; of whom my next paper shall give a more particular account. There is no place of general resort, wherein I do not often make my appearance; sometimes I am seen thrusting my head into a round of politicians at Will's, and listening with great attention to the narratives that are made in those little circular audiences. Sometimes I smoke a pipe at Child's, and whilst I seem at- [100 tentive to nothing but the Postman, overhear the conversation of every table in the room. I appear on Sunday nights at St. James's coffee-house, and sometimes join the little committee of politics in the inner room, as one who comes there to hear and improve. My face is likewise very well known at the Grecian, the Cocoa-tree, and in the theaters both of Drury-Lane and the Hay-market. I [110 have been taken for a merchant upon the Exchange for above these ten years, and sometimes pass for a Jew in the assembly of stock-jobbers at Jonathan's. In short, wherever I see a cluster of people, I always mix with them, though I never open my lips but in my own club.

Thus I live in the world rather as a Spectator of mankind, than as one of the species, by which means I have made [120 myself a speculative statesman, soldier, merchant, and artisan, without ever meddling with any practical part in life. I am very well versed in the theory of a husband or a father, and can discern the errors in the economy, business, and diversion of others, better than those who are engaged in them; as standers-by discover blots which are apt to escape those who are in the game. I never espoused [130 any party with violence, and am resolved to observe an exact neutrality between the Whigs and Tories, unless I shall be forced to declare myself by the hostilities of either side. In short, I have acted in all the parts of my life as a looker-

on, which is the character I intend to preserve in this paper.

I have given the reader just so much of my history and character, as to let [140 him see I am not altogether unqualified for the business I have undertaken. As for other particulars in my life and adventures, I shall insert them in following papers, as I shall see occasion. In the meantime, when I consider how much I have seen, read, and heard, I begin to blame my own taciturnity; and since I have neither time nor inclination, to communicate the fulness of my heart in [150 speech, I am resolved to do it in writing, and to print myself out, if possible, before I die. I have been often told by my friends, that it is a pity so many useful discoveries which I have made should be in the possession of a silent man. For this reason, therefore, I shall publish a sheet-full of thoughts every morning, for the benefit of my contemporaries; and if I can any way contrib- [160 ute to the diversion or improvement of the country in which I live, I shall leave it when I am summoned out of it, with the secret satisfaction of thinking that I have not lived in vain.

There are three very material points which I have not spoken to in this paper; and which, for several important reasons, I must keep to myself, at least for some time: I mean, an account of [170 my name, my age, and my lodgings. I must confess, I would gratify my reader in anything that is reasonable; but as for these three particulars, though I am sensible they might tend very much to the embellishment of my paper, I cannot yet come to a resolution of communicating them to the public. They would indeed draw me out of that obscurity which I have enjoyed for many years, and ex- [180 pose me in public places to several salutes and civilities, which have been always very disagreeable to me; for the greatest pain I can suffer, is the being talked to, and being stared at. It is for this reason likewise, that I keep my complexion and dress as very great secrets; though it is not impossible but I may make discoveries of both in the progress of the work I have undertaken. [190

After having been thus particular upon myself, I shall, in to-morrow's paper, give an account of those gentlemen who are concerned with me in this work; for, as I have before intimated, a plan of it is laid and concerted, as all other matters of importance are, in a club. However, as my friends have engaged me to stand in the front, those who have a mind to correspond with me may direct their [200 letters to the Spectator, at Mr. Buckley's, in Little Britain. For I must further acquaint the reader, that, though our club meets only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have appointed a committee to sit every night, for the inspection of all such papers as may contribute to the advancement of the public weal.

—ADDISON.

THE CLUB

No. 2. Friday, March 2, 1711.

—*Ast alii sex*

Et plures uno conclamant ore.

—*Juv. Sat. vii. 167.*

Six more at least join their consenting voice.

The first of our society is a gentleman of Worcestershire, of ancient descent, a baronet, his name Sir Roger de Coverley. His great grandfather was inventor of that famous country-dance which is called after him. All who know that shire are very well acquainted with the parts and merits of Sir Roger. He is a gentleman that is very singular in his behavior, but his singularities proceed from his [10 good sense, and are contradictions to the manners of the world, only as he thinks the world is in the wrong. However, this humor creates him no enemies, for he does nothing with sourness or obstinacy; and his being unconfined to modes and forms, makes him but the reader and more capable to please and oblige all who know him. When he is in town, he lives in Soho Square. It is said, he keeps himself [20 a bachelor, by reason he was crossed in love by a perverse beautiful widow of the next county to him. Before this disappointment, Sir Roger was what you call a fine gentleman, had often supped with

my Lord Rochester and Sir George Etherege, fought a duel upon his first coming to town, and kicked Bully Dawson in a public coffee house for calling him youngster. But being ill used by the [30 above mentioned widow, he was very serious for a year and a half; and though, his temper being naturally jovial, he at last got over it, he grew careless of himself, and never dressed afterwards. He continues to wear a coat and doublet of the same cut that were in fashion at the time of his repulse, which, in his merry humors, he tells us, has been in and out twelve times since he first wore it. It is said [40 Sir Roger grew humble in his desires after he had forgot his cruel beauty, inasmuch that it is reported he has frequently offended in point of chastity with beggars and gypsies; but this is looked upon, by his friends, rather as matter of raillery than truth. He is now in his fifty-sixth year, cheerful, gay, and hearty; keeps a good house both in town and country; a great lover of mankind; but there is [50 such a mirthful cast in his behavior, that he is rather beloved than esteemed.

His tenants grow rich, his servants look satisfied, all the young women profess love to him, and the young men are glad of his company. When he comes into a house, he calls the servants by their names, and talks all the way up stairs to a visit. I must not omit, that Sir Roger is a justice of the quorum; that he fills the chair [60 at a quarter-session with great abilities, and three months ago, gained universal applause, by explaining a passage in the game-act.

The gentleman next in esteem and authority among us, is another bachelor, who is a member of the Inner Temple; a man of great probity, wit, and understanding; but he has chosen his place of residence rather to obey the direction [70 of an old humorsome father, than in pursuit of his own inclinations. He was placed there to study the laws of the land, and is the most learned of any of the house in those of the stage. Aristotle and Longinus are much better understood by him than Littleton or Coke. The father sends up every post questions relating to marriage articles, leases, and tenures, in

the neighborhood; all which questions [80 he agrees with an attorney to answer and take care of in the lump. He is studying the passions themselves, when he should be inquiring into the debates among men which arise from them. He knows the argument of each of the orations of Demosthenes and Tully; but not one case in the reports of our own courts. No one ever took him for a fool, but none, except his intimate friends, know he has [90 a great deal of wit. This turn makes him at once both disinterested and agreeable. As few of his thoughts are drawn from business, they are most of them fit for conversation. His taste of books is a little too just for the age he lives in; he has read all, but approves of very few. His familiarity with the customs, manners, actions, and writings of the ancients, makes him a very delicate ob- [100 server of what occurs to him in the present world. He is an excellent critic, and the time of the play is his hour of business; exactly at five he passes through New Inn, crosses through Russell court, and takes a turn at Will's, till the play begins; he has his shoes rubbed, and his periwig powdered, at the barber's as you go into the Rose. It is for the good of the audience when he is at a play; for [110 the actors have an ambition to please him.

The person of next consideration is Sir Andrew Freeport, a merchant of great eminence in the city of London. A person of indefatigable industry, strong reason, and great experience. His notions of trade are noble and generous, and, as every rich man has usually some sly way of jesting, which would make no great figure were he not a rich man, he [120 calls the sea the British Common. He is acquainted with commerce in all its parts, and will tell you that it is a stupid and barbarous way to extend dominion by arms; for true power is to be got by arts and industry. He will often argue that if this part of our trade were well cultivated, we should gain from one nation; — and if another, from another. I have heard him prove, that diligence [130 makes more lasting acquisitions than valor, and that sloth has ruined more nations than the sword. He abounds in

several frugal maxims, amongst which the greatest favorite is, "A penny saved is a penny got." A general trader of good sense is pleasanter company than a general scholar; and Sir Andrew having a natural unaffected eloquence, the perspicuity of his discourse gives the [140 same pleasure that wit would in another man. He has made his fortunes himself; and says that England may be richer than other kingdoms, by as plain methods as he himself is richer than other men; though at the same time I can say this of him, that there is not a point in the compass but blows home a ship in which he is an owner.

Next to Sir Andrew in the club-room [150 sits Captain Sentry, a gentleman of great courage, good understanding, but invincible modesty. He is one of those that deserve very well, but are very awkward at putting their talents within the observation of such as should take notice of them. He was some years a captain, and behaved himself with great gallantry in several engagements and at several sieges; but having a small estate of [160 his own, and being next heir to Sir Roger, he has quitted a way of life, in which no man can rise suitably to his merit, who is not something of a courtier as well as a soldier. I have heard him often lament, that in a profession where merit is placed in so conspicuous a view, impudence should get the better of modesty. When he has talked to this purpose, I never heard him make a sour expres- [170 sion, but frankly confess that he left the world, because he was not fit for it. A strict honesty and an even regular behavior are in themselves obstacles to him that must press through crowds who endeavor at the same end with himself, the favor of a commander. He will, however, in his way of talk, excuse generals for not disposing according to men's desert, or inquiring into it: for, says he, [180 that great man who has a mind to help me, has as many to break through to come at me, as I have to come at him: therefore, he will conclude, that the man who would make a figure, especially in a military way, must get over all false modesty, and assist his patron against

the importunity of other pretenders, by a proper assurance in his own vindication. He says it is a civil cowardice to [190 be backward in asserting what you ought to expect, as it is a military fear to be slow in attacking when it is your duty. With this candor does the gentleman speak of himself and others. The same frankness runs through all his conversation. The military part of his life has furnished him with many adventures, in the relation of which he is very agreeable to the company; for he is never [200 over-bearing, though accustomed to command men in the utmost degree below him; nor ever too obsequious, from an habit of obeying men highly above him.

But, that our society may not appear a set of humorists, unacquainted with the gallantries and pleasures of the age, we have amongst us the gallant Will Honeycomb, a gentleman who, according to his years, should be in the decline of his [210 life, but, having ever been very careful of his person, and always had a very easy fortune, time has made but a very little impression, either by wrinkles on his forehead, or traces on his brain. His person is well turned, of a good height. He is very ready at that sort of discourse with which men usually entertain women. He has all his life dressed very well, and remembers habits as others do men. [220 He can smile when one speaks to him, and laughs easily. He knows the history of every mode, and can inform you from which of the French king's wenches our wives and daughters had this manner of curling their hair, that way of placing their hoods; whose frailty was covered by such a sort of petticoat, and whose vanity to show her foot made that part of the dress so short in such a year. [230 In a word, all his conversation and knowledge have been in the female world. As other men of his age will take notice to you what such a minister said upon such and such an occasion, he will tell you, when the Duke of Monmouth danced at court, such a woman was then smitten, another was taken with him at the head of his troop in the Park. In all these important relations, he has ever [240 about the same time received a kind

glance or a blow of a fan from some celebrated beauty, mother of the present Lord Such-a-one. * * * This way of talking of his very much enlivens the conversation among us of a more sedate turn; and I find there is not one of the company, but myself, who rarely speak at all, but speaks of him as of that sort of man who is usually called a well- [250 bred fine gentleman. To conclude his character, where women are not concerned, he is an honest worthy man.

I cannot tell whether I am to account him whom I am next to speak of, as one of our company; for he visits us but seldom, but when he does, it adds to every man else a new enjoyment of himself. He is a clergyman, a very philosophic man, of general learning, great sanctity of life, [260 and the most exact good breeding. He has the misfortune to be of a very weak constitution; and consequently cannot accept of such cares and business as preferments in his function would oblige him to; he is therefore among divines what a chamber-councillor is among lawyers. The probity of his mind, and the integrity of his life, create him followers, as being eloquent or loud ad- [270 vances others. He seldom introduces the subject he speaks upon; but we are so far gone in years that he observes, when he is among us, an earnestness to have him fall on some divine topic, which he always treats with much authority, as one who has no interest in this world, as one who is hastening to the object of all his wishes, and conceives hope from his decays and infirmities. These are my [280 ordinary companions.

—STEELE.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

No. 26. Friday, March 30, 1711.

Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas

Regumque turres, O beate Sextil Vitæ summa brevis spem nos vetat inchoare longam.

Jam te premet nox, fabulaeque manes, Et domus exilis Plutonia.

Hor. Od. i. 4, 13.

With equal foot, rich friend, impartial Fate

Knocks at the cottage, and the palace gate: Life's span forbids thee to extend thy cares, And stretch thy hopes beyond thy years: Night soon will seize, and you must quickly go

To storied ghosts, and Pluto's house below.
—CREECH.

When I am in a serious humor, I very often walk by myself in Westminster Abbey; where the gloominess of the place, and the use to which it is applied, with the solemnity of the building, and the condition of the people who lie in it, are apt to fill the mind with a kind of melancholy, or rather thoughtfulness, that is not disagreeable. I yesterday passed a whole afternoon in the church- [10 yard, the cloisters, and the church, amusing myself with the tombstones and inscriptions that I met with in those several regions of the dead. Most of them recorded nothing else of the buried person, but that he was born upon one day, and died upon another; the whole history of his life being comprehended in those two circumstances that are common to all mankind. I could not but [20 look upon these registers of existence, whether of brass or marble, as a kind of satire upon the departed persons; who had left no other memorial of them, but that they were born, and that they died. They put me in mind of several persons mentioned in the battles of heroic poems, who have sounding names given them, for no other reason but that they may be killed, and are celebrated for nothing [30 but being knocked on the head.

Γλαυκὸν τε Μέδοντά τε Θερσίλοχόν τε. Hom. *Glaucumque, Medontaque, Thersilochumque.* Virg.

The life of these men is finely described in holy writ by "the path of an arrow," which is immediately closed up and lost.

Upon my going into the church, I entertained myself with the digging of a grave; and saw in every shovel-full of [40 it that was thrown up, the fragment of a bone or skull intermixed with a kind of

fresh mouldering earth, that some time or other had a place in the composition of a human body. Upon this I began to consider with myself what innumerable multitudes of people lay confused together under the pavement of that ancient cathedral; how men and women, friends and enemies, priests and soldiers, monks and prebendaries, were crumbled amongst one another, and blended together in the same common mass; how beauty, strength, and youth, with old-age, weakness, and deformity, lay undistinguished in the same promiscuous heap of matter.

After having thus surveyed this great magazine of mortality, as it were in the lump, I examined it more particularly by the accounts which I found on several of the monuments which are raised in every quarter of that ancient fabric. Some of them were covered with such extravagant epitaphs, that if it were possible for the dead person to be acquainted with them, he would blush at the praises which his friends have bestowed upon him. There are others so excessively modest, that they deliver the character of the person departed in Greek or Hebrew, and by that means are not understood once in a twelvemonth. In the poetical quarter, I found there were poets who had no monuments, and monuments which had no poets. I observed indeed that the present war had filled the church with many of these uninhabited monuments, which had been erected to the memory of persons whose bodies were perhaps buried in the plains of Blenheim, or in the bosom of the ocean.

I could not but be very much delighted with several modern epitaphs, which are written with great elegance of expression and justness of thought, and therefore do honor to the living as well as to the dead. As a foreigner is very apt to conceive an idea of the ignorance or politeness of a nation from the turn of their public monuments and inscriptions, they should be submitted to the perusal of men of learning and genius, before they are put in execution. Sir Cloudesley Shovel's monument has very often given me great offense. Instead of the brave

rough English admiral, which was the distinguishing character of that plain gallant man, he is represented on his tomb by the figure of a beau, dressed in a long periwig, and reposing himself upon velvet cushions under a canopy of state. The inscription is answerable to the monument; for instead of celebrating the many remarkable actions he had performed in the service of his country, it acquaints us only with the manner of his death, in which it was impossible for him to reap any honor. The Dutch, whom we are apt to despise for want of genius, show an infinitely greater taste of antiquity and politeness in their buildings and works of this nature, than what we meet with in those of our own country. The monuments of their admirals, which have been erected at the public expense, represent them like themselves; and are adorned with rostral crowns and naval ornaments, with beautiful festoons of sea-weed, shells, and coral.

But to return to our subject. I have left the repository of our English kings for the contemplation of another day, when I shall find my mind disposed for so serious an amusement. I know that entertainments of this nature are apt to raise dark and dismal thoughts in timorous minds, and gloomy imaginations; but for my own part, though I am always serious, I do not know what it is to be melancholy; and can therefore take a view of nature in her deep and solemn scenes, with the same pleasure as in her most gay and delightful ones. By this means I can improve myself with those objects, which others consider with terror. When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tomb-stone, my heart melts with compassion; when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow. When I see kings lying by those who deposed them, when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I

reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great day when we shall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together.

—ADDISON.

SIR ROGER AT CHURCH

No. 112. Monday, July 9, 1711.

Ἀθανάτους μὲν πρῶτα θεοὺς, νόμῳ ὡς διάκειται
Τιμᾷ.—PYTHAG.

*First, in obedience to thy country's rites,
Worship the immortal gods.*

I am always very well pleased with a country Sunday, and think, if keeping holy the seventh day were only a human institution, it would be the best method that could have been thought of for the polishing and civilizing of mankind. It is certain the country people would soon degenerate into a kind of savages and barbarians, were there not such frequent returns of a stated time in which the [10 whole village meet together with their best faces, and in their cleanliest habits, to converse with one another upon indifferent subjects, hear their duties explained to them, and join together in adoration of the Supreme Being. Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week, not only as it refreshes in their minds the notions of religion, but as it puts both the sexes upon appearing in [20 their most agreeable forms, and exerting all such qualities as are apt to give them a figure in the eye of the village. A country fellow distinguishes himself as much in the churchyard, as a citizen does upon the Change, the whole parish-politics being generally discussed in that place either after sermon or before the bell rings.

My friend Sir Roger, being a good [30 churchman, has beautified the inside of his church with several texts of his own choosing. He has likewise given a hand-

some pulpit-cloth, and railed in the communion table at his own expense. He has often told me, that at his coming to his estate he found his parishioners very irregular; and that in order to make them kneel and join in the responses, he gave every one of them a hassock [40 and a common-prayer book: and at the same time employed an itinerant singing master, who goes about the country for that purpose, to instruct them rightly in the tunes of the Psalms; upon which they now very much value themselves, and indeed outdo most of the country churches that I have ever heard.

As Sir Roger is landlord to the whole congregation, he keeps them in very [50 good order, and will suffer nobody to sleep in it besides himself; for if by chance he has been surprised into a short nap at sermon, upon recovering out of it he stands up and looks about him, and if he sees anybody else nodding, either wakes them himself, or sends his servants to them. Several other of the old knight's particularities break out upon these occasions. Sometimes he will [60 be lengthening out a verse in the singing Psalms, half a minute after the rest of the congregation have done with it; sometimes, when he is pleased with the matter of his devotion, he pronounces "Amen" three or four times to the same prayer; and sometimes stands up when everybody else is upon their knees, to count the congregation, or see if any of his tenants are missing. [70

I was yesterday very much surprised to hear my old friend, in the midst of the service, calling out to one John Matthews to mind what he was about, and not disturb the congregation. This John Matthews, it seems, is remarkable for being an idle fellow, and at that time was kicking his heels for his diversion. This authority of the knight, though exerted in that odd manner which ac- [80 companies him in all circumstances of life, has a very good effect upon the parish, who are not polite enough to see any thing ridiculous in his behavior; besides that the general good sense and worthiness of his character makes his friends observe these little singularities as foils

that rather set off than blemish his good qualities.

As soon as the sermon is finished, [90 nobody presumes to stir till Sir Roger is gone out of the church. The knight walks down from his seat in the chancel between a double row of his tenants, that stand bowing to him on each side; and every now and then inquires how such a one's wife, or mother, or son, or father do, whom he does not see at church; which is understood as a secret reprimand to the person that is absent. [100

The chaplain has often told me, that upon a catechising day, when Sir Roger has been pleased with a boy that answers well, he has ordered a Bible to be given him next day for his encouragement; and sometimes accompanies it with a flitch of bacon to his mother. Sir Roger has likewise added five pounds a year to the clerk's place; and that he may encourage the young fellows to make themselves [110 perfect in the church-service, has promised, upon the death of the present incumbent, who is very old, to bestow it according to merit.

The fair understanding between Sir Roger and his chaplain, and their mutual concurrence in doing good, is the more remarkable, because the very next village is famous for the differences and contentions that rise between the par- [120 son and the squire, who live in a perpetual state of war. The parson is always preaching at the squire, and the squire to be revenged on the parson never comes to church. The squire has made all his tenants atheists, and tithe-stealers; while the parson instructs them every Sunday in the dignity of his order, and insinuates to them, in almost every sermon, that he is a better man than [130 his patron. In short, matters have come to such an extremity, that the squire has not said his prayers either in public or private this half year; and that the parson threatens him, if he does not mend his manners, to pray for him in the face of the whole congregation.

Feuds of this nature, though too frequent in the country, are very fatal to the ordinary people; who are so used [140 to be dazzled with riches, that they pay

as much deference to the understanding of a man of an estate, as of a man of learning; and are very hardly brought to regard any truth, how important soever it may be, that is preached to them, when they know there are several men of five hundred a year who do not believe it.

—ADDISON.

SIR ROGER AT THE ASSIZES

No. 122. Friday, July 20, 1711.

Comes jucundus in via pro vehiculo est.
Publ. Syr. Frag.
An agreeable companion upon the road is as good as a coach.

A man's first care should be to avoid the reproaches of his own heart; his next, to escape the censures of the world. If the last interferes with the former, it ought to be entirely neglected; but otherwise there cannot be a greater satisfaction to an honest mind, than to see those approbations which it gives itself seconded by the applauses of the public. A man is more sure of conduct, when the [10 verdict which he passes upon his own behavior is thus warranted and confirmed by the opinion of all that know him.

My worthy friend Sir Roger is one of those who is not only at peace within himself, but beloved and esteemed by all about him. He receives a suitable tribute for his universal benevolence to mankind, in the returns of affection and goodwill, which are paid him by every one [20 that lives within his neighborhood. I lately met with two or three odd instances of that general respect which is shown to the good old knight. He would needs carry Will Wimble and myself with him to the county assizes. As we were upon the road Will Wimble joined a couple of plain men who rid before us, and conversed with them for some time; during which my friend Sir Roger ac- [30 quainted me with their characters.

"The first of them," says he, "that has a spaniel by his side, is a yeoman of about an hundred pounds a year, an honest man. He is just within the game-

act, and qualified to kill a hare or a pheasant. He knocks down a dinner with his gun twice or thrice a week; and by that means lives much cheaper than those who have not so good an estate [40 as himself. He would be a good neighbor if he did not destroy so many partridges. In short he is a very sensible man; shoots flying, and has been several times foreman of the petty jury.

"That other that rides along with him is Tom Touchy, a fellow famous for 'taking the law' of everybody. There is not one in the town where he lives that he has not sued at a quarter-sessions. [50 The rogue had once the impudence to go to law with the widow. His head is full of costs, damages, and ejectments. He plagued a couple of honest gentlemen so long for a trespass in breaking one of his hedges, till he was forced to sell the ground it enclosed to defray the charges of the prosecution; his father left him fourscore pounds a year; but he has cast and been cast so often, that he is not [60 now worth thirty. I suppose he is going upon the old business of the willow tree."

As Sir Roger was giving me this account of Tom Touchy, Will Wimble and his two companions stopped short till we came up to them. After having paid their respects to Sir Roger, Will told him that Mr. Touchy and he must appeal to him upon a dispute that arose between them. Will it seems had been giving [70 his fellow-traveler an account of his angling one day in such a hole; when Tom Touchy, instead of hearing out his story, told him that Mr. Such-a-one, if he pleased, might "take the law of him" for fishing in that part of the river. My friend Sir Roger heard them both, upon a round trot; and after having paused some time, told them, with the air of a man who would not give his judge- [80 ment rashly, that "much might be said on both sides." They were neither of them dissatisfied with the knight's determination, because neither of them found himself in the wrong by it; upon which we made the best of our way to the assizes.

The court was sat before Sir Roger came; but notwithstanding all the justices had taken their places upon the bench,

they made room for the old knight at [90 the head of them; who, for his reputation in the country, took occasion to whisper in the judge's ear, that he was glad his lordship had met with so much good weather in his circuit. I was listening to the proceedings of the court with much attention, and infinitely pleased with that great appearance of solemnity which so properly accompanies such a public administration of our laws; when, after [100 about an hour's sitting, I observed to my great surprise, in the midst of a trial, that my friend Sir Roger was getting up to speak. I was in some pain for him till I found he had acquitted himself of two or three sentences, with a look of much business and great intrepidity.

Upon his first rising the court was hushed, and a general whisper ran among the country people that Sir Roger [110 "was up." The speech he made was so little to the purpose, that I shall not trouble my readers with an account of it; and I believe was not so much designed by the knight himself to inform the court, as to give him a figure in my eye, and keep up his credit in the country.

I was highly delighted, when the court rose, to see the gentlemen of the country gathering about my old friend, and [120 striving who should compliment him most; at the same time that the ordinary people gazed upon him at a distance, not a little admiring his courage, that was not afraid to speak to the judge.

In our return home we met with a very odd accident; which I cannot forbear relating, because it shows how desirous all who know Sir Roger are of giving him marks of their esteem. When we [130 were arrived upon the verge of his estate, we stopped at a little inn to rest ourselves and our horses. The man of the house had, it seems, been formerly a servant in the knight's family; and to do honor to his old master, had some time since, unknown to Sir Roger, put him up in a sign-post before the door; so that the knight's head had hung out upon the road about a week before he himself [140 knew anything of the matter. As soon as Sir Roger was acquainted with it, finding that his servant's indiscretion pro-

ceeded wholly from affection and goodwill, he only told him that he had made him too high a compliment; and when the fellow seemed to think that could hardly be, added with a more decisive look, that it was too great an honor for any man under a duke; but told him at the [150 same time, that it might be altered with a very few touches, and that he himself would be at the charge of it. Accordingly, they got a painter by the knight's directions to add a pair of whiskers to the face, and by a little aggravation of the features to change it into the *Saracen's Head*. I should not have known this story, had not the inn-keeper, upon Sir Roger's alighting, told him in my hearing, [160 that his honor's head was brought back last night with the alterations that he had ordered to be made in it. Upon this my friend with his usual cheerfulness related the particulars above-mentioned, and ordered the head to be brought into the room. I could not forbear discovering greater expressions of mirth than ordinary upon the appearance of this monstrous face, under which, notwith- [170 standing it was made to frown and stare in a most extraordinary manner, I could still discover a distant resemblance of my old friend. Sir Roger, upon seeing me laugh, desired me to tell him truly if I thought it possible for people to know him in that disguise. I at first kept my usual silence; but upon the knight's conjuring me to tell him whether it was not still more like himself than a Saracen, [180 I composed my countenance in the best manner I could, and replied "that much might be said on both sides."

These several adventures, with the knight's behavior in them, gave me as pleasant a day as ever I met with in any of my travels.

—ADDISON.

THE VISION OF MIRZA

No. 159. *Saturday, September 1, 1711.*

—*Omnem, quæ nunc obducta tuenti
Mortales hebetat visus tibi, et humida circum
Caligat, nubem eripiam—*

Virg. Æn. ii. 604.

*The cloud, which, intercepting the clear light,
Hangs o'er thy eyes, and blunts thy mortal
sight,
I will remove—*

When I was at Grand Cairo, I picked up several Oriental manuscripts, which I have still by me. Among others I met with one entitled *The Visions of Mirza*, which I have read over with great pleasure. I intend to give it to the public when I have no other entertainment for them; and shall begin with the first vision, which I have translated word for word as follows: [10

"On the fifth day of the moon, which, according to the custom of my forefathers, I always keep holy, after having washed myself, and offered up my morning devotions, I ascended the high hills of Bagdat, in order to pass the rest of the day in meditation and prayer. As I was here airing myself on the tops of the mountains, I fell into a profound contemplation on the vanity of human life; and passing [20 from one thought to another, 'Surely,' said I, 'man is but a shadow, and life a dream.' Whilst I was thus musing, I cast my eyes towards the summit of a rock that was not far from me, where I discovered one in the habit of a shepherd, with a musical instrument in his hand. As I looked upon him he applied it to his lips, and began to play upon it. The sound of it was exceedingly sweet, [30 and wrought into a variety of tunes that were inexpressibly melodious, and altogether different from anything I had ever heard. They put me in mind of those heavenly airs that are played to the departed souls of good men upon their first arrival in Paradise, to wear out the impressions of their last agonies, and qualify them for the pleasures of that happy place. My heart melted [40 away in secret raptures.

"I had been often told that the rock before me was the haunt of a Genius; and that several had been entertained with music who had passed by it, but never heard that the musician had before made himself visible. When he had raised my thoughts by those transporting airs which he played to taste the pleasures

of his conversation, as I looked upon [50 him like one astonished, he beckoned to me, and by the waving of his hand directed me to approach the place where he sat. I drew near with that reverence which is due to a superior nature; and as my heart was entirely subdued by the captivating strains I had heard, I fell down at his feet and wept. The Genius smiled upon me with a look of compassion and affability that familiarized [60 him to my imagination, and at once dispelled all the fears and apprehensions with which I approached him. He lifted me from the ground, and taking me by the hand, 'Mirza,' said he, 'I have heard thee in thy soliloquies; follow me.'

"He then led me to the highest pinnacle of the rock, and placing me on the top of it, 'Cast thy eyes eastward,' said he, 'and tell me what thou seest.' [70 'I see,' said I, 'a huge valley, and a prodigious tide of water rolling through it.' 'The valley that thou seest,' said he, 'is the Vale of Misery, and the tide of water that thou seest is part of the great Tide of Eternity.' 'What is the reason,' said I, 'that the tide I see rises out of a thick mist at one end, and again loses itself in a thick mist at the other?' 'What thou seest,' said he, 'is that portion of [80 eternity which is called time, measured out by the sun, and reaching from the beginning of the world to its consummation. Examine now,' said he, 'this sea that is bounded with darkness at both ends, and tell me what thou discoverest in it.' 'I see a bridge,' said I, 'standing in the midst of the tide.' 'The bridge thou seest,' said he, 'is Human Life: consider it attentively.' Upon a more [90 leisurely survey of it, I found that it consisted of threescore and ten entire arches, with several broken arches, which added to those that were entire, made up the number about a hundred. As I was counting the arches, the Genius told me that this bridge consisted at first of a thousand arches; but that a great flood swept away the rest, and left the bridge in the ruinous condition I now beheld it. 'But tell [100 me farther,' said he, 'what thou discoverest on it.' 'I see multitudes of people passing over it,' said I, 'and a black

cloud hanging on each end of it.' As I looked more attentively, I saw several of the passengers dropping through the bridge into the great tide that flowed underneath it; and upon farther examination, perceived there were innumerable trap-doors that lay concealed in the [110 bridge, which the passengers no sooner trod upon, but they fell through them into the tide, and immediately disappeared. These hidden pit-falls were set very thick at the entrance of the bridge, so that throngs of people no sooner broke through the cloud, but many of them fell into them. They grew thinner towards the middle, but multiplied and lay closer together towards the end of the arches [120 that were entire.

"There were indeed some persons, but their number was very small, that continued a kind of hobbling march on the broken arches, but fell through one after another, being quite tired and spent with so long a walk.

"I passed some time in the contemplation of this wonderful structure, and the great variety of objects which it [130 presented. My heart was filled with a deep melancholy to see several dropping unexpectedly in the midst of mirth and jollity, and catching at everything that stood by them to save themselves. Some were looking up towards the heavens in a thoughtful posture, and in the midst of a speculation stumbled and fell out of sight. Multitudes were very busy in the pursuit of bubbles that glittered in [140 their eyes and danced before them; but often when they thought themselves within the reach of them, their footing failed and down they sunk. In this confusion of objects, I observed some with scymetars in their hands, who ran to and fro upon the bridge, thrusting several persons on trap-doors which did not seem to lie in their way, and which they might have escaped had they not been [150 thus forced upon them.

"The Genius seeing me indulge myself on this melancholy prospect, told me I had dwelt long enough upon it. 'Take thine eyes off the bridge,' said he, 'and tell me if thou yet seest anything thou dost not comprehend.' Upon looking up,

'what mean,' said I, 'those great flights of birds that are perpetually hovering about the bridge, and settling upon it [160 from time to time? I see vultures, harpies, ravens, cormorants, and among many other feathered creatures several little winged boys, that perch in great numbers upon the middle arches.' 'These,' said the Genius, 'are Envy, Avarice, Superstition, Despair, Love, with the like cares and passions that infest human life.'

"I here fetched a deep sigh. 'Alas,' said I, 'Man was made in vain! how [170 is he given away to misery and mortality! tortured in life, and swallowed up in death!' The Genius being moved with compassion towards me, bid me quit so uncomfortable a prospect. 'Look no more,' said he, 'on man in the first stage of his existence, in his setting out for eternity; but cast thine eye on that thick mist into which the tide bears the several generations of mortals that fall into [180 it.' I directed my sight as I was ordered, and (whether or no the good Genius strengthened it with any supernatural force, or dissipated part of the mist that was before too thick for the eye to penetrate), I saw the valley opening at the farther end, and spreading forth into an immense ocean, that had a huge rock of adamant running through the midst of it, and dividing it into two equal [190 parts. The clouds still rested on one half of it, insomuch that I could discover nothing in it; but the other appeared to me a vast ocean planted with innumerable islands, that were covered with fruits and flowers, and interwoven with a thousand little shining seas that ran among them. I could see persons dressed in glorious habits with garlands upon their heads, passing among the trees, [200 lying down by the sides of fountains, or resting on beds of flowers; and could hear a confused harmony of singing birds, falling waters, human voices, and musical instruments. Gladness grew in me upon the discovery of so delightful a scene. I wished for the wings of an eagle, that I might fly away to those happy seats; but the Genius told me there was no passage to them, except through the [210 gates of death that I saw opening every

moment upon the bridge. 'The islands,' said he, 'that lie so fresh and green before thee, and with which the whole face of the ocean appears spotted as far as thou canst see, are more in number than the sands on the sea-shore; there are myriads of islands behind those which thou here discoverest, reaching farther than thine eye, or even thine imagination can [220 extend itself. These are the mansions of good men after death, who, according to the degree and kinds of virtue in which they excelled, are distributed among these several islands, which abound with pleasures of different kinds and degrees, suitable to the relishes and perfections of those who are settled in them; every island is a paradise accommodated to its respective inhabitants. Are not [230 these, O Mirza, habitations worth contending for? Does life appear miserable that gives thee opportunities of earning such a reward? Is death to be feared that will convey thee to so happy an existence? Think not man was made in vain, who has such an eternity reserved for him.' I gazed with inexpressible pleasure on these happy islands. At length, said I, 'Show me now, I be- [240 seech thee, the secrets that lie hid under those dark clouds which cover the ocean on the other side of the rock of adamant.' The Genius making me no answer, I turned me about to address myself to him a second time, but I found that he had left me; I then turned again to the vision which I had been so long contemplating; but instead of the rolling tide, the arched bridge, and the happy [250 islands, I saw nothing but the long hollow valley of Bagdat, with oxen, sheep, and camels grazing upon the sides of it."

—ADDISON.

A COQUETTE'S HEART

No. 281. Tuesday, January 22, 1712.

Pectoribus inhians spirantia consulit exta.

Virg. Æn. iv. 64.

Anxious the reeking entrails he consults.

Having already given an account of the dissection of a beau's head, with the

several discoveries made on that occasion, I shall here, according to my promise, enter upon the dissection of a coquette's heart, and communicate to the public such particularities as we observed in that curious piece of anatomy.

I should perhaps have waived this undertaking, had not I been put in [10 mind of my promise by several of my unknown correspondents, who are very importunate with me to make an example of the coquette, as I have already done of the beau. It is therefore in compliance with the request of friends, that I have looked over the minutes of my former dream, in order to give the public an exact relation of it, which I shall enter upon without farther [20 preface.

Our operator, before he engaged in this visionary dissection, told us that there was nothing in his art more difficult than to lay open the heart of a coquette, by reason of the many labyrinths and recesses which are to be found in it, and which do not appear in the heart of any other animal.

He desired us first of all to observe [30 the pericardium, or outward case of the heart, which we did very attentively; and by the help of our glasses discerned in it millions of little scars, which seemed to have been occasioned by the points of innumerable darts and arrows, that from time to time had glanced upon the outward coat; though we could not discover the smallest orifice by which any of them had entered and pierced the inward [40 substance.

Every smatterer in anatomy knows that this pericardium, or case of the heart, contains in it a thin reddish liquor, supposed to be bred from the vapors which exhale out of the heart, and being stopped here, are condensed into this watery substance. Upon examining this liquor, we found that it had in it all the qualities of that spirit which is made use of in [50 the thermometer to show the change of weather.

Nor must I here omit an experiment one of the company assured us he himself had made with this liquor, which he found in great quantity about the heart

of a coquette whom he had formerly dissected. He affirmed to us, that he had actually inclosed it in a small tube made after the manner of a weather-glass; [60 but that, instead of acquainting him with the variations of the atmosphere, it showed him the qualities of those persons who entered the room where it stood. He affirmed also, that it rose at the approach of a plume of feathers, an embroidered coat, or a pair of fringed gloves; and that it fell as soon as an ill-shaped periwig, a clumsy pair of shoes, or an unfashionable coat came into his house. Nay, he [70 proceeded so far as to assure us, that upon his laughing aloud when he stood by it, the liquor mounted very sensibly, and immediately sunk again upon his looking serious. In short, he told us that he knew very well by this invention, whenever he had a man of sense or a coxcomb in his room.

Having cleared away the pericardium, or the case, and liquor above-men- [80 tioned, we came to the heart itself. The outward surface of it was extremely slippery, and the mucro, or point, so very cold withal, that upon endeavoring to take hold of it, it glided through the fingers like a smooth piece of ice.

The fibres were turned and twisted in a more intricate and perplexed manner than they are usually found in other hearts; insomuch that the whole heart [90 was wound up together like a Gordian knot, and must have had very irregular and unequal motions, while it was employed in its vital function.

One thing we thought very observable, namely, that upon examining all the vessels which came into it, or issued out of it, we could not discover any communication that it had with the tongue.

We could not but take notice like- [100 wise that several of those little nerves in the heart which are affected by the sentiments of love, hatred, and other passions, did not descend to this before us from the brain, but from the muscles which lie about the eye.

Upon weighing the heart in my hand, I found it to be extremely light, and consequently very hollow, which I did not wonder at, when, upon looking [110

into the inside of it, I saw multitudes of cells and cavities running one within another, as our historians describe the apartments of Rosamond's bower. Several of these little hollows were stuffed with innumerable sorts of trifles, which I shall forbear giving any particular account of, and shall, therefore, only take notice of what lay first and uppermost, which, upon our unfolding it, and [120 applying our microscopes to it, appeared to be a flame-colored hood.

We are informed that the lady of this heart, when living, received the addresses of several who made love to her, and did not only give each of them encouragement, but made everyone she conversed with believe that she regarded him with an eye of kindness; for which reason we expected to have seen the impression of [130 multitudes of faces among the several plaits and foldings of the heart; but to our great surprise not a single print of this nature discovered itself till we came into the very core and centre of it. We there observed a little figure, which, upon applying our glasses to it, appeared dressed in a very fantastic manner. The more I looked upon it, the more I thought I had seen the face before, but [140 could not possibly recollect either the place or time; when at length one of the company, who had examined this figure more nicely than the rest, showed us plainly by the make of its face, and the several turns of its features, that the little idol which was thus lodged in the very middle of the heart was the deceased beau, whose head I gave some account of in my last Tuesday's paper. [150

As soon as we had finished our dissection, we resolved to make an experiment of the heart, not being able to determine among ourselves the nature of its substance, which differed in so many particulars from that in the heart of other females. Accordingly, we laid it into a pan of burning coals, when we observed in it a certain salamandrine quality, that made it capable of living in [160 the midst of fire and flame, without being consumed or so much as singed.

As we were admiring this strange phenomenon, and standing round the

heart in a circle, it gave a most prodigious sigh, or rather crack, and dispersed all at once in smoke and vapor. This imaginary noise, which methought was louder than the burst of a cannon, produced such a violent shake in my brain, [170 that it dissipated the fumes of sleep, and left me in an instant broad awake.

—ADDISON.

ALEXANDER POPE (1688–1744)

From WINDSOR FOREST

The groves of Eden, vanished now so long,
Live in description, and look green in song:
These, were my breast inspired with equal flame,
Like them in beauty, should be like in fame. 10
Here hills and vales, the woodland and the plain,
Here earth and water seem to strive again;
Not chaos-like together crushed and bruised,
But, as the world, harmoniously confused:
Where order in variety we see, 15
And where, though all things differ, all agree.
Here waving groves a chequered scene display,
And part admit, and part exclude the day;
As some coy nymph her lover's warm address
Nor quite indulges, nor can quite repress. 20
There, interspersed in lawns and opening glades,
Thin trees arise that shun each other's shades.
Here in full light the russet plains extend:
There wrapt in clouds the bluish hills ascend.
Even the wild heath displays her purple dyes, 25
And 'midst the desert fruitful fields arise,
That crowned with tufted trees and springing corn,
Like verdant isles, the sable waste adorn.
Let India boast her plants, nor envy we
The weeping amber or the balmy tree, 30

While by our oaks the precious loads are
borne,
And realms commanded which those trees
adorn.
Not proud Olympus yields a nobler sight,
Though gods assembled grace his towering
height,
Than what more humble mountains offer
here, ³⁵
Where, in their blessings, all those gods
appear.
See Pan with flocks, with fruits Pomona
crowned,
Here blushing Flora paints th' enamelled
ground,
Here Ceres' gifts in waving prospect
stand,
And nodding tempt the joyful reaper's
hand, ⁴⁰
Rich industry sits smiling on the plains,
And peace and plenty tell a Stuart reigns.

* * * * *

See! from the brake the whirring pheas-
ant springs,
And mounts exulting on triumphant
wings:
Short is his joy; he feels the fiery wound,
Flutters in blood, and panting beats the
ground.
Ah! what avail his glossy, varying dyes, ¹¹⁵
His purple crest, and scarlet-circled eyes,
The vivid green his shining plumes un-
fold,
His painted wings, and breast that flames
with gold?

Nor yet, when moist Arcturus clouds
the sky,
The woods and fields their pleasing toils
deny. ¹²⁰
To plains with well-breathed beagles we
repair,
And trace the mazes of the circling hare
(Beasts, urged by us, their fellow beasts
pursue,
And learn of man each other to undo).
With slaughtering guns th' unwearied
fowler roves, ¹²⁵
When frosts have whitened all the naked
groves,
Where doves in flocks the leafless trees
o'ershade,
And lonely woodcocks haunt the watery
glade.

He lifts the tube, and levels with his eye;
Straight a short thunder breaks the frozen
sky: ¹³⁰
Oft, as in airy rings they skim the heath,
The clamorous lapwings feel the leaden
death;
Oft, as the mounting larks their notes
prepare,
They fall, and leave their little lives in
air.
In genial spring, beneath the quivering
shade, ¹³⁵
Where cooling vapors breathe along the
mead,
The patient fisher takes his silent stand,
Intent, his angle trembling in his hand:
With looks unmoved, he hopes the scaly
breed,
And eyes the dancing cork and bending
reed. ¹⁴⁰
Our plenteous streams a various race
supply,
The bright-eyed perch with fins of Tyrian
dye,
The silver eel, in shining volumes rolled,
The yellow carp, in scales bedropped with
gold,
Swift trouts, diversified with crimson
stains, ¹⁴⁵
And pikes, the tyrants of the watery
plains.
Now Cancer glows with Phœbus' fiery
car:
The youth rush eager to the sylvan war,
Swarm o'er the lawns, the forest walks
surround,
Rouse the fleet hart, and cheer the opening
hound. ¹⁵⁰
Th' impatient courser pants in every
vein,
And, pawing, seems to beat the distant
plain:
Hills, vales, and floods appear already
crossed,
And ere he starts, a thousand steps are
lost.
See the bold youth strain up the threaten-
ing steep, ¹⁵⁵
Rush through the thickets, down the
valleys sweep,
Hang o'er their coursers' heads with eager
speed,
And earth rolls back beneath the flying
steed.

AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM

From PART I

'Tis hard to say, if greater want of skill
Appear in writing or in judging ill;
But, of the two, less dangerous is th'
offence

To tire our patience, than mislead our
sense.

Some few in that, but numbers err in this; 5
Ten censure wrong for one who writes
amiss;

A fool might once himself alone expose;
Now one in verse makes many more in
prose.

'Tis with our judgments as our watches,
none

Go just alike, yet each believes his own. 10
In poets as true genius is but rare,
True taste as seldom is the critic's share;
Both must alike from Heaven derive their
light,

These born to judge, as well as those to
write.

Let such teach others who themselves
excel, 15

And censure freely who have written well.
Authors are partial to their wit, 'tis true,
But are not critics to their judgment too?

* * * * *

First follow Nature, and your judgment
frame

By her just standard, which is still the
same;

Unerring Nature, still divinely bright, 70
One clear, unchanged, and universal light,
Life, force, and beauty, must to all impart,
At once the source, and end, and test of
Art.

Art from that fund each just supply pro-
vides,

Works without show, and without pomp
presides. 75

In some fair body thus th' informing soul
With spirits feeds, with vigor fills the
whole,

Each motion guides, and every nerve sus-
tains;

Itself unseen, but in th' effects, remains.
Some, to whom Heaven in wit has been
profuse, 80

Want as much more, to turn it to its use;

For wit and judgment often are at strife,
Though meant each other's aid, like man
and wife.

'Tis more to guide than spur the Muse's
steed; 84

Restrain his fury, than provoke his speed;
The winged courser, like a generous horse,
Shows most true mettle when you check
his course.

Those rules of old, discovered, not de-
vised,

Are Nature still, but Nature methodized;
Nature, like liberty, is but restrained 90
By the same laws which first herself or-
dained.

* * * * *

You, then, whose judgment the right
course would steer,

Know well each ancient's proper char-
acter;

His fable,¹ subject, scope in every page; 120
Religion, country, genius of his age:

Without all these at once before your eyes,
Cavil you may, but never criticise.

Be Homer's works your study and delight,
Read them by day, and meditate by night;
Thence form your judgment, thence your
maxims bring, 126

And trace the Muses upward to their
spring.

Still with itself compared, his text peruse;
And let your comment be the Mantuan
Muse.

When first young Maro in his boundless
mind 130

A work t' outlast immortal Rome de-
signed,

Perhaps he seemed above the critic's
law,

And but from nature's fountains scorned
to draw:

But when t' examine every part he came,
Nature and Homer were, he found, the
same. 135

Convinced, amazed, he checks the bold
design;

And rules as strict his labored work con-
fine,

As if the Stagirite o'erlooked each line.
Learn hence for ancient rules a just es-
teem;

To copy nature is to copy them. 140

¹ plot.

From PART II

A little learning is a dangerous thing; 15
 Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian
 spring:
 There shallow draughts intoxicate the
 brain,
 And drinking largely sobers us again.
 Fired at first sight with what the Muse
 imparts,
 In fearless youth we tempt the heights of
 arts, 20
 While from the bounded level of our mind
 Short views we take, nor see the lengths
 behind;
 But, more advanced, behold with strange
 surprise
 New distant scenes of endless science rise!
 So pleased at first the towering Alps we
 try, 25
 Mount o'er the vales, and seem to tread
 the sky,
 Th' eternal snows appear already past,
 And the first clouds and mountains seem
 the last;
 But, those attained, we tremble to survey
 The growing labors of the lengthened way,
 Th' increasing prospects tire our wander-
 ing eyes, 31
 Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps
 arise!

* * * * *

Some to conceit alone their taste con-
 fine,
 And glittering thoughts struck out at
 every line; 90
 Pleased with a work where nothing's just
 or fit;
 One glaring chaos and wild heap of wit.
 Poets like painters, thus unskilled to trace
 The naked nature and the living grace,
 With gold and jewels cover every part, 95
 And hide with ornaments their want of
 art.
 True wit is nature to advantage dressed,
 What oft was thought, but ne'er so well
 expressed;
 Something whose truth convinced at sight
 we find,
 That gives us back the image of our mind.
 As shades more sweetly recommend the
 light, 101
 So modest plainness sets off sprightly wit.

For works may have more wit than does
 'em good,
 As bodies perish through excess of blood.
 Others for language all their care ex-
 press, 105
 And value books, as women men, for
 dress:
 Their praise is still—the style is excellent;
 The sense they humbly take upon con-
 tent.
 Words are like leaves; and where they
 most abound,
 Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely
 found. 110
 False eloquence, like the prismatic glass,
 Its gaudy colors spreads on every place;
 The face of nature we no more survey,
 All glares alike, without distinction gay:
 But true expression, like th' unchanging
 sun, 115
 Clears and improves whate'er it shines
 upon;
 It gilds all objects, but it alters none.
 Expression is the dress of thought, and
 still
 Appears more decent, as more suitable;
 A vile conceit in pompous words expressed,
 Is like a clown in regal purple dressed: 121
 For different styles with different subjects
 sort,¹
 As several garbs with country, town, and
 court.
 Some by old words to fame have made
 pretence,
 Ancients in phrase, mere moderns in their
 sense; 125
 Such labored nothings, in so strange a
 style,
 Amaze th' unlearn'd, and make the
 learned smile.
 Unlucky as Fungoso in the play,
 These sparks with awkward vanity dis-
 play
 What the fine gentleman wore yesterday;
 And but so mimic ancient wits at best, 131
 As apes our grandsires, in their doublets
 dressed.
 In words, as fashions, the same rule will
 hold;
 Alike fantastic if too new or old:
 Be not the first by whom the new are
 tried, 135
 Nor yet the last to lay the old aside.

¹ accord.

But most by numbers judge a poet's
 song;
 And smooth or rough, with them, is right
 or wrong.
 In the bright Muse though thousand
 charms conspire,
 Her voice is all these tuneful fools ad-
 mire;
 Who haunt Parnassus but to please their
 ear, 141
 Not mend their minds; as some to church
 repair,
 Not for the doctrine, but the music there.
 These equal syllables alone require,
 Though oft the ear the open vowels
 tire; 145
 While expletives their feeble aid do join,
 And ten low words oft creep in one dull
 line:
 While they ring round the same unvaried
 chimes,
 With sure returns of still expected rhymes:
 Where'er you find "the cooling western
 breeze," 150
 In the next line, it "whispers through the
 trees;"
 If crystal streams "with pleasing mur-
 murs creep,"
 The reader's threatened (not in vain) with
 "sleep:"
 Then, at the last and only couplet fraught
 With some unmeaning thing they call a
 thought, 155
 A needless Alexandrine ends the song,
 That, like a wounded snake, drags its slow
 length along.
 Leave such to tune their own dull rhymes,
 and know
 What's roundly smooth or languishingly
 slow;
 And praise the easy vigor of a line, 160
 Where Denham's strength, and Waller's
 sweetness join.
 True ease in writing comes from art, not
 chance,
 As those move easiest who have learned to
 dance.
 'Tis not enough no harshness gives offence:
 The sound must seem an echo to the
 sense. 165
 Soft is the strain when Zephyr gently
 blows,
 And the smooth stream in smoother num-
 bers flows;

But when loud surges lash the sounding
 shore,
 The hoarse, rough verse should like the
 torrent roar.
 When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight
 to throw, 170
 The line, too, labors, and the words move
 slow.
 Not so when swift Camilla scours the
 plain,
 Flies o'er th' unbending corn, and skims
 along the main.
 Hear how Timotheus' varied lays surprise,
 And bid alternate passions fall and rise! 175
 While, at each change, the son of Libyan
 Jove
 Now burns with glory, and then melts with
 love;
 Now his fierce eyes with sparkling fury
 glow,
 Now sighs steal out, and tears begin to
 flow:
 Persians and Greeks like turns of nature
 found, 180
 And the world's victor stood subdued by
 sound!
 The power of music all our hearts allow,
 And what Timotheus was, is Dryden now.
 Avoid extremes; and shun the fault of
 such
 Who still are pleased too little or too much.
 At every trifle scorn to take offence; 186
 That always shows great pride, or little
 sense;
 Those heads, as stomachs, are not sure the
 best,
 Which nauseate all, and nothing can digest.
 Yet let not each gay turn thy rapture
 move; 190
 For fools admire, but men of sense ap-
 prove:
 As things seem large which we through
 mists descry,
 Dullness is ever apt to magnify.

THE RAPE OF THE LOCK

AN HEROIC-COMICAL POEM

CANTO I

What dire offence from amorous causes
 springs,
 What mighty contests rise from trivial
 things,

I sing.—This verse to Caryl, Muse! is due;
This, e'en Belinda may vouchsafe to
view.

Slight is the subject, but not so the praise,⁵
If she inspire, and he approve my lays.

Say what strange motive, Goddess!
could compel

A well-bred lord t' assault a gentle belle?
Oh say what stranger cause, yet unex-
plored,

Could make a gentle belle reject a lord? ¹⁰
In tasks so bold, can little men engage,
And in soft bosoms dwells such mighty
rage?

Sol through white curtains shot a
timorous ray,
And oped those eyes that must eclipse the
day.

Now lap-dogs give themselves the rousing
shake, ¹⁵
And sleepless lovers, just at twelve, awake.
Thrice rung the bell, the slipper knocked
the ground,
And the pressed watch returned a silver
sound.

Belinda still her downy pillow pressed,
Her guardian sylph prolonged the balmy
rest. ²⁰

'Twas he had summoned to her silent bed
The morning-dream that hovered o'er her
head:

A youth more glittering than a birth-night
beau,
(That ev'n in slumber caused her cheek to
glow)

Seemed to her ear his winning lips to lay,²⁵
And thus in whispers said, or seemed to
say:

"Fairest of mortals, thou distinguished
care

Of thousand bright inhabitants of air!
If e'er one vision touched thy infant
thought,

Of all the nurse and all the priest have
taught— ³⁰

Of airy elves by moonlight shadows seen,
The silver token, and the circled green,
Or virgins visited by angel powers,
With golden crowns and wreaths of heav-
enly flowers,—

Hear and believe! thy own importance
know, ³⁵
Nor bound thy narrow views to things be-
low.

Some secret truths, from learned pride con-
cealed,

To maids alone and children are revealed.
What though no credit doubting wits may
give?

The fair and innocent shall still believe. ⁴⁰
Know, then, unnumbered spirits round
thee fly,

The light militia of the lower sky.
These, though unseen, are ever on the
wing,

Hang o'er the box, and hover round the
Ring.

Think what an equipage thou hast in
air, ⁴⁵
And view with scorn two pages and a
chair.

As now your own, our beings were of
old,

And once enclosed in woman's beauteous
mould;

Thence, by a soft transition, we repair
From earthly vehicles to these of air. ⁵⁰

Think not, when woman's transient breath
is fled,

That all her vanities at once are dead;
Succeeding vanities she still regards,

And though she plays no more, o'erlooks
the cards.

Her joy in gilded chariots, when alive, ⁵⁵
And love of ombre, after death survive.

For when the fair in all their pride expire,
To their first elements their souls retire:
The sprites of fiery termagants in flame
Mount up, and take a salamander's name.
Soft yielding minds to water glide away, ⁶¹
And sip, with nymphs, their elemental
tea.

The graver prude sinks downward to a
gnome,

In search of mischief still on earth to roam.
The light coquettes in sylphs aloft repair,
And sport and flutter in the fields of air. ⁶⁶

"Know further yet: whoever fair and
chaste

Rejects mankind, is by some sylph em-
braced;

For spirits, freed from mortal laws, with
ease

Assume what sexes and what shapes they
please. ⁷⁰

What guards the purity of melting maids,
In courtly balls, and midnight mas-
querades,

Safe from the treacherous friend, the daring spark,
 The glance by day, the whisper in the dark,
 When kind occasion prompts their warm desires, 75
 When music softens, and when dancing fires?
 'Tis but their sylph, the wise celestials know,
 Though honor is the word with men below.
 Some nymphs there are, too conscious of their face,
 For life predestined to the gnomes' embrace. 80
 These swell their prospects and exalt their pride,
 When offers are disdained, and love denied:
 Then gay ideas crowd the vacant brain,
 While peers, and dukes, and all their sweeping train,
 And garters, stars, and coronets appear, 85
 And in soft sounds 'Your Grace' salutes their ear.
 'Tis these that early taint the female soul,
 Instruct the eyes of young coquettes to roll,
 Teach infant cheeks a bidden blush to know,
 And little hearts to flutter at a beau. 90
 "Oft when the world imagine women stray,
 The sylphs through mystic mazes guide their way;
 Through all the giddy circle they pursue,
 And old impertinence expel by new.
 What tender maid but must a victim fall 95
 To one man's treat, but for another's ball?
 When Florio speaks, what virgin could withstand,
 If gentle Damon did not squeeze her hand?
 With varying vanities, from every part,
 They shift the moving toyshop of their heart, 100
 Where wigs with wigs, with sword-knots sword-knots strive,
 Beaux banish beaux, and coaches coaches drive.
 This erring mortals levity may call;
 Oh, blind to truth! the sylphs contrive it all.

"Of these am I, who thy protection claim, 105
 A watchful sprite, and Ariel is my name.
 Late, as I ranged the crystal wilds of air,
 In the clear mirror of thy ruling star
 I saw, alas! some dread event impend,
 Ere to the main¹ this morning sun descend,
 But Heaven reveals not what, or how, or where. 111
 Warned by the sylph, O pious maid, beware!
 This to disclose is all thy guardian can:
 Beware of all, but most beware of man!"
 He said; when Shock, who thought she slept too long, 115
 Leaped up, and waked his mistress with his tongue.
 'Twas then, Belinda, if report say true,
 Thy eyes first opened on a billet-doux;
 Wounds, charms, and ardors were no sooner read,
 But all the vision vanished from thy head.
 And now, unveiled, the toilet stands played, 121
 Each silver vase in mystic order laid.
 First, robed in white, the nymph intent adores,
 With head uncovered, the cosmetic powers.
 A heavenly image in the glass appears, 125
 To that she bends, to that her eyes she rears.
 Th' inferior priestess, at her altar's side,
 Trembling begins the sacred rites of Pride.
 Unnumbered treasures ope at once, and here
 The various offerings of the world appear;
 From each she nicely culls with curious toil, 131
 And decks the goddess with the glittering spoil.
 This casket India's glowing gems unlocks,
 And all Arabia breathes from yonder box.
 The tortoise here and elephant unite, 135
 Transformed to combs, the speckled, and the white.
 Here files of pins extend their shining rows,
 Puffs, powders, patches, bibles, billets-doux.
 Now awful beauty puts on all its arms;
 The fair each moment rises in her charms,
 Repairs her smiles, awakens every grace,
 And calls forth all the wonders of her face; 142

¹ the sea.

Sees by degrees a purer blush arise,
 And keener lightnings quicken in her eyes.
 The busy sylphs surround their darling
 care, ¹⁴⁵
 These set the head, and those divide the
 hair,
 Some fold the sleeve, whilst others plait
 the gown;
 And Betty's praised for labors not her
 own.

CANTO II

Not with more glories, in th' ethereal
 plain,
 The sun first rises o'er the purpled main,
 Than, issuing forth, the rival of his beams
 Launched on the bosom of the silver
 Thames.
 Fair nymphs and well-dressed youths
 around her shone, ⁵
 But every eye was fixed on her alone.
 On her white breast a sparkling cross she
 wore
 Which Jews might kiss, and infidels adore.
 Her lively looks a sprightly mind disclose,
 Quick as her eyes, and as unfixed as those;
 Favors to none, to all she smiles extends; ¹¹
 Oft she rejects, but never once offends.
 Bright as the sun, her eyes the gazers
 strike,
 And, like the sun, they shine on all alike.
 Yet graceful ease, and sweetness void of
 pride, ¹⁵
 Might hide her faults, if belles had faults
 to hide;
 If to her share some female errors fall,
 Look on her face, and you'll forget 'em all.
 This nymph, to the destruction of man-
 kind,
 Nourished two locks, which graceful hung
 behind ²⁰
 In equal curls, and well conspired to deck
 With shining ringlets the smooth ivory
 neck.
 Love in these labyrinths his slaves detains,
 And mighty hearts are held in slender
 chains.
 With hairy springs we the birds betray; ²⁵
 Slight lines of hair surprise the finny prey;
 Fair tresses man's imperial race ensnare,
 And beauty draws us with a single hair.
 Th' adventurous baron the richest locks
 admired;
 He saw, he wished, and to the prize aspired.

Resolved to win, he meditates the way, ³¹
 By force to ravish, or by fraud betray;
 For when success a lover's toil attends,
 Few ask if fraud or force attained his ends.
 For this, ere Phœbus rose, he had im-
 plored ³⁵
 Propitious Heaven, and every Power
 adored,
 But chiefly Love; to Love an altar built,
 Of twelve vast French romances, neatly
 gilt.
 There lay three garters, half a pair of
 gloves,
 And all the trophies of his former loves; ⁴⁰
 With tender billets-doux he lights the
 pyre,
 And breathes three amorous sighs to raise
 the fire.
 Then prostrate falls, and begs with ardent
 eyes
 Soon to obtain, and long possess the prize.
 The Powers gave ear, and granted half his
 prayer; ⁴⁵
 The rest the winds dispersed in empty air.
 But now secure the painted vessel glides,
 The sunbeams trembling on the floating
 tides;
 While melting music steals upon the sky,
 And softened sounds along the waters die;
 Smooth flow the waves, the zephyrs gently
 play, ⁵¹
 Belinda smiled, and all the world was gay.
 All but the sylph—with careful thoughts
 oppressed,
 Th' impending woe sat heavy on his
 breast.
 He summons straight his denizens of air; ⁵⁵
 The lucid squadrons round the sails re-
 pair;¹
 Soft o'er the shrouds aerial whispers
 breathe,
 That seemed but zephyrs to the train
 beneath.
 Some to the sun their insect-wings unfold,
 Waft on the breeze, or sink in clouds of
 gold; ⁶⁰
 Transparent forms, too fine for mortal
 sight,
 Their fluid bodies half dissolved in light.
 Loose to the wind their airy garments flew,
 Thin glittering textures of the filmy dew,
 Dipt in the richest tincture of the skies, ⁶⁵
 Where light disports in ever-mingling dyes,

¹ gather.

While every beam new transient colors
flings,
Colors that change whene'er they wave
their wings.

Amid the circle, on the gilded mast,
Superior by the head, was Ariel placed; 70
His purple pinions opening to the sun,
He raised his azure wand, and thus begun:

"Ye sylphs and sylphids, to your chief
give ear!

Fays, fairies, genii, elves, and demons,
hear!

Ye know the spheres, and various tasks
assigned 75

By laws eternal to th' aërial kind.

Some in the fields of purest æther play,
And bask and whiten in the blaze of day.
Some guide the course of wandering orbs
on high,

Or roll the planets through the boundless
sky. 80

Some, less refined, beneath the moon's pale
light

Pursue the stars that shoot athwart the
night,

Or suck the mists in grosser air below,
Or dip their pinions in the painted bow,
Or brew fierce tempests on the wintry
main, 85

Or o'er the glebe distil the kindly rain.

Others on earth o'er human race preside,
Watch all their ways, and all their actions
guide:

Of these the chief the care of nations own,
And guard with arms divine the British
throne. 90

"Our humbler province is to tend the
fair,

Not a less pleasing, though less glorious
care;

To save the powder from too rude a gale,
Nor let th' imprisoned essences exhale;

To draw fresh colors from the vernal
flowers; 95

To steal from rainbows, ere they drop in
showers,

A brighter wash; to curl their waving
hairs,

Assist their blushes, and inspire their airs;
Nay oft, in dreams, invention we bestow,

To change a flounce, or add a furbelow. 100

"This day, black omens threat the
brightest fair

That e'er deserved a watchful spirit's care;

Some dire disaster, or by force, or sleight;
But what, or where, the fates have wrapped
in night.

Whether the nymph shall break Diana's
law, 105

Or some frail china jar receive a flaw;
Or stain her honor, or her new brocade;
Forget her prayers, or miss a masquerade;
Or lose her heart, or necklace, at a ball;
Or whether Heaven has doomed that
Shock must fall. 110

Haste, then, ye spirits! to your charge
repair:

The fluttering fan be Zephyretta's care;
The drops to thee, Brillante, we consign;
And, Momentilla, let the watch be thine;
Do thou, Crispissa, tend her favorite lock;
Ariel himself shall be the guard of Shock.
To fifty chosen sylphs, of special note, 117
We trust th' important charge, the
petticoat:

Oft have we known that seven-fold fence
to fail,

Though stiff with hoops, and armed with
ribs of whale; 120

Form a strong line about the silver bound,
And guard the wide circumference around.

"Whatever spirit, careless of his charge,
His post neglects, or leaves the fair at large,
Shall feel sharp vengeance soon o'ertake
his sins, 125

Be stopped in vials, or transfixed with pins;
Or plunged in lakes of bitter washes lie,
Or wedged whole ages in a bodkin's eye;
Gums and pomatums shall his flight re-
strain,

While, clogged, he beats his silken wings
in vain; 130

Or alum styptics with contracting power
Shrink his thin essence like a rivelled
flower;

Or, as Ixion fixed, the wretch shall feel
The giddy motion of the whirling mill,
In fumes of burning chocolate shall glow,
And tremble at the sea that froths below!"

He spoke; the spirits from the sails
descend; 137

Some, orb in orb, around the nymph ex-
tend;

Some thrid the mazy ringlets of her hair;
Some hang upon the pendants of her ear;
With beating hearts the dire event they
wait, 141

Anxious, and trembling for the birth of fate.

CANTO III

Close by those meads, forever crowned
with flowers,
Where Thames with pride surveys his
rising towers,
There stands a structure of majestic frame,
Which from the neighboring Hampton
takes its name.
Here Britain's statesmen oft the fall fore-
doom 5
Of foreign tyrants and of nymphs at home;
Here thou, great Anna! whom three realms
obey,
Dost sometimes counsel take—and some-
times tea.
Hither the heroes and the nymphs re-
sort,
To taste awhile the pleasures of a court; 10
In various talk th' instructive hours they
passed,
Who gave the ball, or paid the visit last;
One speaks the glory of the British Queen,
And one describes a charming Indian
screen;
A third interprets motions, looks, and
eyes; 15
At every word a reputation dies.
Snuff, or the fan, supply each pause of
chat,
With singing, laughing, ogling, and all that.
Meanwhile, declining from the noon of
day,
The sun obliquely shoots his burning ray;
The hungry judges soon the sentence sign,
And wretches hang that jurymen may
dine; 22
The merchant from th' Exchange returns
in peace,
And the long labors of the toilet cease.
Belinda now, whom thirst of fame invites,
Burns to encounter two adventurous
knights, 26
At ombre singly to decide their doom;
And swells her breast with conquests yet
to come.
Straight the three bands prepare in arms
to join,
Each band the number of the sacred nine.
Soon as she spreads her hand, th' aerial
guard 31
Descend, and sit on each important card:
First, Ariel perched upon a Matadore,
Then each, according to the rank they bore;

For sylphs, yet mindful of their ancient
race, 35
Are, as when women, wondrous fond of
place.
Behold four kings in majesty revered,
With hoary whiskers and a forky beard;
And four fair queens, whose hands sustain
a flower,
The expressive emblem of their softer
power; 40
Four knaves, in garbs succinct, a trusty
band,
Caps on their heads, and halberts in their
hand;
And parti-colored troops, a shining train,
Draw forth to combat on the velvet plain.
The skilful nymph reviews her force
with care: 45
"Let spades be trumps!" she said, and
trumps they were.
Now moved to war her sable Matadores,
In show like leaders of the swarthy Moors.
Spadillio first, unconquerable lord!
Led off two captive trumps, and swept the
board. 50
As many more Manillio forced to yield,
And marched a victor from the verdant
field.
Him Basto followed, but, his fate more
hard,
Gained but one trump and one plebeian
card.
With his broad sabre next, a chief in years,
The hoary majesty of spades appears, 56
Puts forth one manly leg, to sight revealed;
The rest, his many-colored robe con-
cealed.
The rebel knave, who dares his prince
engage,
Proves the just victim of his royal rage. 60
E'en mighty Pam, that kings and queens
o'erthrew,
And mowed down armies in the fights of
Loo,
Sad chance of war! now destitute of aid,
Falls undistinguished by the victor spade.
Thus far both armies to Belinda yield;
Now to the baron fate inclines the field. 66
His warlike Amazon her host invades,
Th' imperial consort of the crown of spades;
The club's black tyrant first her victim
died,
Spite of his haughty mien, and barbarous
pride. 70

What boots the regal circle on his head,
His giant limbs, in state unwieldy spread;
That long behind he trails his pompous
robe,

And, of all monarchs, only grasps the
globe?

The baron now his diamonds pours
apace; 75

Th' embroidered king who shows but half
his face,

And his refulgent queen, with powers com-
bined,

Of broken troops an easy conquest find.
Clubs, diamonds, hearts, in wild disorder
seen,

With throngs promiscuous strew the level
green. 80

Thus when dispersed a routed army runs,
Of Asia's troops, and Afric's sable sons,

With like confusion different nations fly,
Of various habit, and of various dye,

The pierced battalions disunited fall, 85
In heaps on heaps; one fate o'erwhelms
them all.

The knave of diamonds tries his wily
arts,

And wins (oh shameful chance!) the
queen of hearts.

At this the blood the virgin's cheek for-
sook,

A livid paleness spreads o'er all her look; 90
She sees, and trembles at th' approaching
ill,

Just in the jaws of ruin, and codille.
And now (as oft in some distempered
state)

On one nice trick depends the general fate.
An ace of hearts steps forth; the king un-
seen 95

Lurked in her hand, and mourned his
captive queen:

He springs to vengeance with an eager
pace,

And falls like thunder on the prostrate ace.
The nymph exulting fills with shouts the
sky;

The walls, the woods, and long canals
reply. 100

Oh thoughtless mortals! ever blind to
fate,

Too soon dejected, and too soon elate.
Sudden, these honors shall be snatched
away,

And cursed forever this victorious day.

For lo! the board with cups and spoons
is crowned, 105

The berries crackle, and the mill turns
round;

On shining altars of Japan they raise
The silver lamp; the fiery spirits blaze:

From silver spouts the grateful liquors
glide,

While China's earth receives the smoking
tide. 110

At once they gratify their scent and taste,
And frequent cups prolong the rich repast.

Straight hover round the fair her airy
band;

Some, as she sipped, the fuming liquor
fanned,

Some o'er her lap their careful plumes dis-
played, 115

Trembling, and conscious of the rich
brocade.

Coffee (which makes the politician wise,
And see through all things with his half-
shut eyes)

Sent up in vapors to the baron's brain
New stratagems the radiant lock to gain.

Ah, cease, rash youth! desist ere 'tis too
late, 121

Fear the just gods, and think of Scylla's
fate!

Changed to a bird, and sent to flit in air,
She dearly pays for Nisus' injured hair!

But when to mischief mortals bend their
will, 125

How soon they find fit instruments of ill!
Just then Clarissa drew with tempting
grace

A two-edged weapon from her shining
case:

So ladies in romance assist their knight,
Present the spear, and arm him for the
fight. 130

He takes the gift with reverence, and ex-
tends

The little engine on his fingers' ends;
This just behind Belinda's neck he spread,

As o'er the fragrant steams she bends her
head.

Swift to the lock a thousand sprites repair,
A thousand wings, by turns, blow back
the hair; 136

And thrice they twitched the diamond in
her ear;

Thrice she looked back, and thrice the foe
drew near.

Just in that instant, anxious Ariel sought
The close recesses of the virgin's thought;
As on the nosegay in her breast reclined, ¹⁴¹
He watched th' ideas rising in her mind,
Sudden he viewed, in spite of all her art,
An earthly lover lurking at her heart.

Amazed, confused, he found his power
expired, ¹⁴⁵

Resigned to fate, and with a sigh retired.

The peer now spreads the glittering for-
fex wide,

T' inclose the lock; now joins it, to divide.
E'en then, before the fatal engine closed,
A wretched sylph too fondly interposed; ¹⁵⁰
Fate urged the shears, and cut the sylph in
twain

(But airy substance soon unites again).

The meeting points the sacred hair dis-
sever

From the fair head, forever, and forever!

Then flashed the living lightning from
her eyes, ¹⁵⁵

And screams of horror rend th' affrighted
skies.

Not louder shrieks to pitying Heaven are
cast,

When husbands, or when lap-dogs breathe
their last;

Or when rich China vessels, fallen from
high,

In glittering dust and painted fragments
lie! ¹⁶⁰

"Let wreaths of triumph now my tem-
ples twine,"

The victor cried; "the glorious prize is
mine!

While fish in streams, or birds delight in
air,

Or in a coach and six the British fair,
As long as Atalantis shall be read, ¹⁶⁵

Or the small pillow grace a lady's bed,
While visits shall be paid on solemn days,

When numerous wax-lights in bright order
blaze,

While nymphs take treats, or assignations
give,

So long my honor, name, and praise shall
live! ¹⁷⁰

What Time would spare, from steel re-
ceives its date,

And monuments, like men, submit to fate!
Steel could the labor of the gods destroy,

And strike to dust th' imperial towers of
Troy;

Steel could the works of mortal pride con-
found, ¹⁷⁵

And hew triumphal arches to the ground.
What wonder then, fair nymph! thy hairs
should feel

The conquering force of unresisted steel?"

CANTO IV

But anxious cares the pensive nymph
oppressed,

And secret passions labored in her breast.
Not youthful kings in battle seized alive,

Not scornful virgins who their charms
survive,

Not ardent lovers robbed of all their bliss,
Not ancient ladies when refused a kiss, ⁶

Not tyrants fierce that unrepenting die,
Not Cynthia when her mantua's pinned

awry,
E'er felt such rage, resentment, and de-
spair,

As thou, sad virgin! for thy ravished hair.
For, that sad moment, when the sylphs

withdrew, ¹¹

And Ariel weeping from Belinda flew,
Umbriel, a dusky, melancholy sprite

As ever sullied the fair face of light,
Down to the central earth, his proper

scene, ¹⁵

Repaired to search the gloomy cave of
Spleen.

Swift on his sooty pinions flits the
gnome,

And in a vapor reached the dismal dome.
No cheerful breeze this sullen region

knows,
The dreaded east is all the wind that
blows. ²⁰

Here in a grotto, sheltered close from air,
And screened in shades from day's de-
tested glare,

She sighs forever on her pensive bed,
Pain at her side, and Megrim¹ at her head.

Two handmaids wait the throne, alike
in place, ²⁵

But differing far in figure and in face.
Here stood Ill-nature like an ancient maid,

Her wrinkled form in black and white
arrayed;

With store of prayers for mornings, nights,
and noons

Her hand is filled; her bosom with lam-
poons. ³⁰

¹ headache.

There Affectation, with a sickly mien,
Shows in her cheek the roses of eighteen;
Practised to lisp, and hang the head aside,
Faint into airs, and languishes with pride;
On the rich quilt sinks with becoming
woe, 35

Wrapped in a gown, for sickness, and for
show.

The fair ones feel such maladies as these,
When each new night-dress gives a new
disease.

A constant vapor o'er the palace flies,
Strange phantoms rising as the mists
arise; 40

Dreadful, as hermits' dreams in haunted
shades,

Or bright, as visions of expiring maids:
Now glaring fiends, and snakes on rolling
spires.¹

Pale spectres, gaping tombs, and purple
fires;

Now lakes of liquid gold, Elysian scenes, 45
And crystal domes, and angels in ma-
chines.

Unnumbered throngs on every side are
seen,

Of bodies changed to various forms by
Spleen.

Here living tea-pots stand, one arm held
out,

One bent; the handle this, and that the
spout. 50

A pipkin there, like Homer's tripod, walks;
Here sighs a jar, and there a goose-pie
talks;

Men prove with child, as powerful fancy
works,

And maids, turned bottles, call aloud for
corks.

Safe passed the gnome through this
fantastic band, 55

A branch of healing spleenwort in his
hand.

Then thus addressed the power: "Hail,
wayward queen!

Who rule the sex, to fifty from fifteen;
Parent of vapors² and of female wit;

Who give th' hysteric, or poetic fit; 60

On various tempers act by various ways,
Make some take physic, others scribble
plays;

Who cause the proud their visits to delay,
And send the godly in a pet to pray.

¹ coils.² whims.

A nymph there is that all thy power dis-
dains, 65

And thousands more in equal mirth main-
tains.

But oh! if e'er thy gnome could spoil a
grace,

Or raise a pimple on a beauteous face,
Like citron-waters matrons' cheeks inflame,

Or change complexions at a losing game; 70

If e'er with airy horns I planted heads,
Or rumpled petticoats, or tumbled beds,

Or caused suspicion when no soul was rude,
Or discomposed the head-dress of a prude,

Or e'er to costive lap-dog gave disease, 75

Which not the tears of brightest eyes
could ease:
Hear me, and touch Belinda with chagrin;
That single act gives half the world the
spleen."

The goddess with a discontented air
Seems to reject him, though she grants
his prayer. 80

A wondrous bag with both her hands she
binds,

Like that where once Ulysses held the
winds:

There she collects the force of female lungs,
Sighs, sobs, and passions, and the war of
tongues.

A vial next she fills with fainting fears, 85
Soft sorrows, melting griefs, and flowing
tears.

The gnome rejoicing bears her gifts away,
Spreads his black wings, and slowly
mounts to day.

Sunk in Thalestris' arms the nymph he
found,

Her eyes dejected and her hair unbound.
Full o'er their heads the swelling bag he
rent, 91

And all the furies issued at the vent.

Belinda burns with more than mortal ire,
And fierce Thalestris fans the rising fire.

"O wretched maid!" she spread her hands,
and cried, 95

(While Hampton's echoes, "Wretched
maid!" replied)

"Was it for this you took such constant
care

The bodkin, comb, and essence to prepare?
For this your locks in paper durance
bound,

For this with torturing irons wreathed
around? 100

For this with fillets strained your tender
head,
And bravely bore the double loads of
lead?

Gods! shall the ravisher display your hair,
While the fops envy, and the ladies stare!
Honor forbid! at whose unrivalled shrine
Ease, pleasure, virtue, all, our sex re-
sign. 106

Methinks already I your tears survey,
Already hear the horrid things they say,
Already see you a degraded toast,
- And all your honor in a whisper lost! 110
How shall I, then, your helpless fame de-
fend?

'Twill then be infamy to seem your friend!
And shall this prize, th' inestimable prize,
Exposed through crystal to the gazing
eyes,

And heightened by the diamond's circling
rays, 115

On that rapacious hand forever blaze?
Sooner shall grass in Hyde Park Circus
grow,
And wits take lodgings in the sound of
Bow:

Sooner let earth, air, sea, to chaos fall,
Men, monkeys, lap-dogs, parrots, perish
all!" 120

She said; then raging to Sir Plume re-
pairs,
And bids her beau demand the precious
hairs

(Sir Plume, of amber snuff-box justly vain,
And the nice conduct of a clouded cane).
With earnest eyes, and round unthinking
face, 125

He first the snuff-box opened, then the
case,

And thus broke out—"My lord—why—
what the devil!

Zounds! damn the lock! 'fore Gad, you
must be civil!

Plague on't! 'tis past a jest—nay, prithee,
pox!

Give her the hair."—He spoke, and rapped
his box. 130

"It grieves me much," replied the peer
again,

"Who speaks so well should ever speak
in vain.

But by this lock, this sacred lock, I swear,
(Which never more shall join its parted
hair,

Which never more its honors shall re-
new, 135
Clipped from the lovely head where late
it grew)

That while my nostrils draw the vital air,
This hand, which won it, shall forever
wear."

He spoke, and speaking, in proud triumph
spread

The long-contended honors of her head. 140
But Umbriel, hateful gnome! forbears
not so;

He breaks the vial whence the sorrows
flow.

Then see! the nymph in beauteous grief
appears,

Her eyes half languishing, half drowned in
tears;

On her heaved bosom hung her drooping
head, 145

Which, with a sigh, she raised; and thus
she said:

"Forever cursed be this detested day,
Which snatched my best, my favorite curl
away!

Happy! ah, ten times happy had I been,
If Hampton Court these eyes had never
seen! 150

Yet am not I the first mistaken maid,
By love of courts to numerous ills be-
trayed.

Oh, had I rather unadmired remained
In some lone isle or distant northern land;
Where the gilt chariot never marks the
way, 155

Where none learn ombre, none e'er taste
bohea!

There kept my charms concealed from
mortal eye,

Like roses, that in deserts bloom and die.
What moved my mind with youthful lords
to roam?

Oh, had I stayed, and said my prayers at
home! 160

'Twas this, the morning omens seemed to
tell:

Thrice from my trembling hand the patch-
box fell;

The tottering china shook without a wind;
Nay, Poll sat mute, and Shock was most
unkind!

A sylph, too, warned me of the threats of
fate, 165

In mystic visions, now believed too late!

See the poor remnants of these slighted
hairs!
My hands shall rend what e'en thy rapine
spares;
These in two sable ringlets taught to
break,
Once gave new beauties to the snowy
neck; 170
The sister lock now sits uncouth, alone,
And in its fellow's fate foresees its own;
Uncurled it hangs, the fatal shears de-
mands,
And tempts once more, thy sacrilegious
hands.
Oh, hadst thou, cruel! been content to
seize 175
Hairs less in sight, or any hairs but these!"

CANTO V

She said: the pitying audience melt in
tears.
But Fate and Jove had stopped the baron's
ears.
In vain Thalestris with reproach assails,
For who can move when fair Belinda fails?
Not half so fixed the Trojan could re-
main, 5
While Anna begged and Dido raged in
vain.
Then grave Clarissa graceful waved her
fan;
Silence ensued, and thus the nymph began:
"Say, why are beauties praised and
honored most,
The wise man's passion, and the vain
man's toast? 10
Why decked with all that land and sea
afford,
Why angels called, and angel-like adored?
Why round our coaches crowd the white-
gloved beaux,
Why bows the side-box from its inmost
rows?
How vain are all these glories, all our
pains, 15
Unless good sense preserve what beauty
gains;
That men may say, when we the front-
box grace,
'Behold the first in virtue as in face!'
Oh! if to dance all night, and dress all day,
Charmed the small-pox, or chased old age
away, 20

Who would not scorn what housewife's
cares produce,
Or who would learn one earthly thing of
use?
To patch, nay, ogle, might become a saint,
Nor could it sure be such a sin to paint.
But since, alas! frail beauty must de-
cay; 25
Curled or uncurled, since locks will turn
to grey;
Since painted, or not painted, all shall
fade,
And she who scorns a man must die a
maid;
What then remains but well our power to
use,
And keep good humor still whate'er we
lose? 30
And trust me, dear, good humor can pre-
vail,
When airs, and flights, and screams, and
scolding fail.
Beauties in vain their pretty eyes may
roll;
Charms strike the sight, but merit wins
the soul."
So spoke the dame, but no applause en-
sued; 35
Belinda frowned, Thalestris called her
prude.
"To arms, to arms!" the fierce virago
cries,
And swift as lightning to the combat flies.
All side in parties, and begin th' attack;
Fans clap, silks rustle, and tough whale-
bones crack; 40
Heroes' and heroines' shouts confusedly
rise,
And bass and treble voices strike the skies.
No common weapons in their hands are
found;
Like gods they fight, nor dread a mortal
wound.
So when bold Homer makes the gods
engage, 45
And heavenly breasts with human pas-
sions rage;
'Gainst Pallas, Mars; Latona, Hermes
arms;
And all Olympus rings with loud alarms:
Jove's thunder roars, Heaven trembles all
around,
Blue Neptune storms, the bellowing deeps
resound: 50

Earth shakes her nodding towers, the
 ground gives way,
 And the pale ghosts start at the flash of
 day!
 Triumphant Umbriel on a sconce's
 height
 Clapped his glad wings, and sat to view
 the fight:
 Propped on their bodkin-spears, the
 sprites survey 55
 The growing combat, or assist the fray.
 While through the press enraged Thales-
 tris flies,
 And scatters death around from both her
 eyes,
 A beau and witling perished in the throng,
 One died in metaphor, and one in song. 60
 "O cruel nymph! a living death I bear,"
 Cried Dapperwit, and sunk beside his
 chair.
 A mournful glance Sir Fopling upwards
 cast,
 "Those eyes are made so killing"—was
 his last.
 Thus on Mæander's flowery margin lies 65
 Th' expiring swan, and as he sings he
 dies.
 When bold Sir Plume had drawn
 Clarissa down,
 Chloe stepped in, and killed him with a
 frown;
 She smiled to see the doughty hero slain,
 But, at her smile, the beau revived again.
 Now Jove suspends his golden scales in
 air, 71
 Weighs the men's wits against the lady's
 hair;
 The doubtful beam long nods from side
 to side;
 At length the wits mount up, the hairs
 subside.
 See, fierce Belinda on the Baron flies, 75
 With more than usual lightning in her
 eyes;
 Nor feared the chief th' unequal fight to
 try,
 Who sought no more than on his foe to
 die.
 But this bold lord, with manly strength
 endued,
 She with one finger and a thumb subdued:
 Just where the breath of life his nostrils
 drew, 81
 A charge of snuff the wily virgin threw;

The gnomes direct, to every atom just,
 The pungent grains of titillating dust.
 Sudden with starting tears each eye o'er-
 flows, 85
 And the high dome re-echoes to his nose.
 "Now meet thy fate," incensed Belinda
 cried,
 And drew a deadly bodkin from her side.
 (The same, his ancient personage to deck,
 Her great great grandsire wore about his
 neck, 90
 In three seal-rings; which after, melted
 down,
 Formed a vast buckle for his widow's
 gown;
 Her infant grandame's whistle next it
 grew,
 The bells she jingled, and the whistle blew;
 Then in a bodkin graced her mother's
 hairs, 95
 Which long she wore, and now Belinda
 wears.)
 "Boast not my fall," he cried, "insult-
 ing foe!
 Thou by some other shalt be laid as
 low;
 Nor think to die dejects my lofty mind:
 All that I dread is leaving you behind! 100
 Rather than so, ah, let me still survive,
 And burn in Cupid's flames—but burn
 alive."
 "Restore the lock!" she cries; and all
 around
 "Restore the lock!" the vaulted roofs re-
 bound.
 Not fierce Othello in so loud a strain 105
 Roared for the handkerchief that caused
 his pain.
 But see how oft ambitious aims are
 crossed,
 And chiefs contend till all the prize is
 lost!
 The lock, obtained with guilt, and kept
 with pain,
 In every place is sought, but sought in
 vain: 110
 With such a prize no mortal must be
 blessed.
 So Heaven decrees! With Heaven who can
 contest?
 Some thought it mounted to the lunar
 sphere,
 Since all things lost on earth are treasured
 there.

There heroes' wits are kept in ponderous
 vases, 115
 And beaux' in snuff-boxes and tweezer
 cases;
 There broken vows and death-bed alms
 are found,
 And lovers' hearts with ends of riband
 bound;
 The courtier's promises, and sick man's
 prayers,
 The smiles of harlots, and the tears of
 heirs; 120
 Cages for gnats, and chains to yoke a
 flea,
 Dried butterflies, and tomes of casuistry.
 But trust the Muse—she saw it upward
 rise,
 Though marked by none but quick, poetic
 eyes:
 (So Rome's great founder to the heavens
 withdrew, 125
 To Proculus alone confessed in view)
 A sudden star, it shot through liquid air,
 And drew behind a radiant trail of hair.
 Not Berenice's locks first rose so bright,
 The heavens bespangling with dishevelled
 light. 130
 The sylphs behold it kindling as it flies,
 And pleased pursue its progress through
 the skies.
 This the beau monde shall from the
 Mall survey,
 And hail with music its propitious ray;
 This the blest lover shall for Venus
 take, 135
 And send up vows from Rosamonda's lake.
 This Partridge soon shall view in cloud-
 less skies,
 When next he looks through Galileo's
 eyes;
 And hence th' egregious wizard shall fore-
 doom
 The fate of Louis, and the fall of Rome. 140
 Then cease, bright nymph! to mourn
 thy ravished hair,
 Which adds new glory to the shining
 sphere!
 Not all the tresses that fair head can
 boast,
 Shall draw such envy as the lock you
 lost.
 For, after all the murders of your eye, 145
 When, after millions slain, yourself shall
 die;

When those fair suns shall set, as set they
 must,
 And all those tresses shall be laid in dust;
 This lock the Muse shall consecrate to
 fame,
 And 'midst the stars inscribe Belinda's
 name. 150

AN ESSAY ON MAN

From Book I

Awake, my St. John! leave all meaner
 things
 To low ambition, and the pride of kings.
 Let us (since life can little more supply
 Than just to look about us and to die)
 Expatriate free o'er all this scene of man; 5
 A mighty maze! but not without a plan;
 A wild, where weeds and flowers promis-
 cuous shoot;
 Or garden, tempting with forbidden fruit.
 Together let us beat¹ this ample field,
 Try what the open, what the covert yield;
 The latent tracts, the giddy heights, ex-
 plore 11
 Of all who blindly creep, or sightless soar;
 Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies,
 And catch the manners living as they rise;
 Laugh where we must, be candid where
 we can; 15
 But vindicate the ways of God to man.
 I. Say first, of God above, or man be-
 low,
 What can we reason, but from what we
 know?
 Of man, what see we but his station here,
 From which to reason, or to which refer? 20
 Through worlds unnumbered though the
 God be known,
 'Tis ours to trace him only in our own.
 He who through vast immensity can
 pierce,
 See worlds on worlds compose one uni-
 verse,
 Observe how system into system runs, 25
 What other planets circle other suns,
 What varied being peoples every star,
 May tell why Heaven has made us as we
 are:
 But of this frame the bearings, and the
 ties,
 The strong connections, nice dependencies,

¹ scour, range through.

Gradations just, has thy pervading soul 31
Looked through? or can a part contain
the whole?

Is the great chain, that draws all to agree,
And drawn, supports, upheld by God, or
thee?

II. Presumptuous man! the reason
wouldst thou find, 35

Why formed so weak, so little, and so
blind?

First, if thou canst, the harder reason
guess,

Why formed no weaker, blinder, and no
less?

Ask of thy mother earth, why oaks are
made

Taller or stronger than the weeds they
shade; 40

Or ask of yonder argent fields above,
Why Jove's satellites are less than Jove.

* * * * *

Respecting man, whatever wrong we
call,

May, must be right, as relative to all.

In human works, though labored on with
pain,

A thousand movements scarce one purpose
gain;

In God's, one single can its end produce; 55
Yet serves to second too some other use.

So man, who here seems principal alone,
Perhaps acts second to some sphere un-
known,

Touches some wheel, or verges to some
goal:

'Tis but a part we see, and not a whole. 60

When the proud steed shall know why
man restrains

His fiery course, or drives him o'er the
plains;

When the dull ox, why now he breaks the
clod,

Is now a victim, and now Egypt's god;
Then shall man's pride and dullness com-
prehend 65

His actions', passions', being's, use and
end;

Why doing, suffering, checked, impelled;
and why

This hour a slave, the next a deity.

Then say not man's imperfect, Heaven
in fault;

Say rather, man's as perfect as he ought: 70

His knowledge measured to his state and
place,

His time a moment, and a point his space.

If to be perfect in a certain sphere,

What matter soon or late, or here or
there?

The blest to-day is as completely so, 75
As who began a thousand years ago.

III. Heaven from all creatures hides
the book of fate,

All but the page prescribed, their present
state:

From brutes what men, from men what
spirits know:

Or who could suffer being here below? 80

The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
Had he thy reason, would he skip and
play?

Pleased to the last, he crops the flowery
food,

And licks the hand just raised to shed his
blood.

Oh, blindness to the future! kindly given,
That each may fill the circle marked by

Heaven: 86

Who sees with equal eye, as God of all,

A hero perish, or a sparrow fall,

Atoms or systems into ruin hurled,

And now a bubble burst, and now a
world. 90

Hope humbly then; with trembling
pinions soar;

Wait the great teacher Death; and God
adore.

What future bliss, he gives not thee to
know,

But gives that hope to be thy blessing now.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast:

Man never is, but always to be, blest. 96

The soul, uneasy and confined from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.

Lo, the poor Indian! whose untutored
mind

Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the
wind; 100

His soul proud science never taught to
stray

Far as the solar walk, or milky way;

Yet simple nature to his hope has given,

Behind the cloud-topped hill, an humbler
Heaven;

Some safer world in depths of woods em-
braced, 105

Some happier island in the watery waste,

Where slaves once more their native land
 behold,
 No fiends torment, no Christians thirst
 for gold.

To be, contents his natural desire;
 He asks no angel's wing, no seraph's fire;
 But thinks, admitted to that equal sky, ¹¹¹
 His faithful dog shall bear him company.

IV. Go, wiser thou! and, in thy scale of
 sense

Weigh thy opinion against Providence;
 Call imperfection what thou fanciest
 such; ¹¹⁵

Say, "Here he gives too little, there too
 much;"

Destroy all creatures for thy sport or gust,¹
 Yet cry, "If man's unhappy, God's un-
 just;"

If man alone engross not Heaven's high
 care,

Alone made perfect here, immortal there,
 Snatch from his hand the balance and the
 rod, ¹²¹

Re-judge his justice, be the god of God.
 In pride, in reasoning pride, our error lies;
 All quit their sphere, and rush into the
 skies.

Pride still is aiming at the blest abodes; ¹²⁵
 Men would be angels, angels would be
 gods.

Aspiring to be gods, if angels fell,
 Aspiring to be angels, men rebel:
 And who but wishes to invert the laws
 Of order, sins against the Eternal Cause. ¹³⁰

* * * * *

IX. What if the foot, ordained the dust
 to tread,

Or hand to toil, aspired to be the head? ²⁶⁰
 What if the head, the eye, or ear repined
 To serve mere engines to the ruling mind?
 Just as absurd for any part to claim
 To be another, in this general frame;
 Just as absurd, to mourn the tasks or
 pains, ²⁶⁵

The great directing Mind of All ordains.

All are but parts of one stupendous
 whole,

Whose body nature is, and God the soul;
 That, changed through all, and yet in all
 the same,

Great in the earth, as in th' ethereal
 frame, ²⁷⁰

¹ pleasure.

Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
 Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the
 trees,

Lives through all life, extends through all
 extent,

Spreads undivided, operates unspent,
 Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal
 part, ²⁷⁵

As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart,
 As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
 As the rapt seraph that adores and burns.
 To him no high, no low, no great, no
 small;

He fills, he bounds, connects, and equals
 all. ²⁸⁰

X. Cease then, nor order imperfection
 name:

Our proper bliss depends on what we
 blame.

Know thy own point: this kind, this due
 degree

Of blindness, weakness, Heaven bestows
 on thee.

Submit.—In this, or any other sphere, ²⁸⁵
 Secure to be as blest as thou canst bear:
 Safe in the hand of one disposing Power,
 Or in the natal, or the mortal hour.

All nature is but art, unknown to thee;
 All chance, direction, which thou canst not
 see; ²⁹⁰

All discord, harmony not understood;
 All partial evil, universal good:

And, spite of pride, in erring reason's
 spite,

One truth is clear, Whatever is, is right.

From EPISTLE TO DR. ARBUTHNOT

—Were there one whose fires
 True genius kindles, and fair fame in-
 spires,

Blessed with each talent and each art to
 please, ¹⁹⁵

And born to write, converse, and live with
 ease;

Should such a man, too fond to rule
 alone,

Bear, like the Turk, no brother near the
 throne;

View him with scornful, yet with jealous
 eyes,

And hate for arts that caused himself to
 rise; ²⁰⁰

Damn with faint praise, assent with civil
 leer,
 And without sneering, teach the rest to
 sneer;
 Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike,
 Just hint a fault, and hesitate dislike;
 Alike reserved to blame, or to com-
 mend, 205
 A timorous foe, and a suspicious friend;
 Dreading ev'n fools, by flatterers be-
 sieged,
 And so obliging that he ne'er obliged;
 Like Cato, give his little senate laws,
 And sit attentive to his own applause, 210
 While wits and Templars every sentence
 raise,
 And wonder with a foolish face of praise—
 Who but must laugh, if such a man there
 be?
 Who would not weep, if Atticus were he!

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Father of all! in every age,
 In every clime adored,
 By saint, by savage, and by sage,
 Jehovah, Jove, or Lord!
 Thou Great First Cause, least under-
 stood: 5
 Who all my sense confined
 To know but this, that Thou art good,
 And that myself am blind;
 Yet gave me, in this dark estate,
 To see the good from ill; 10
 And, binding nature fast in fate,
 Left free the human will.
 What conscience dictates to be done,
 Or warns me not to do,
 This, teach me more than hell to shun, 15
 That, more than heaven pursue.
 What blessings Thy free bounty gives,
 Let me not cast away;
 For God is paid when man receives;
 T' enjoy is to obey. 20
 Yet not to earth's contracted span
 Thy goodness let me bound,
 Or think Thee Lord alone of man,
 When thousand worlds are round.

Let not this weak, unknowing hand 25
 Presume Thy bolts to throw,
 And deal damnation round the land
 On each I deem Thy foe.

If I am right, Thy grace impart,
 Still in the right to stay; 30
 If I am wrong, oh teach my heart
 To find that better way.

Save me alike from foolish pride,
 Or impious discontent,
 At aught Thy wisdom has denied, 35
 Or aught Thy goodness lent.

Teach me to feel another's woe,
 To hide the fault I see;
 That mercy I to others show,
 That mercy show to me. 40

Mean though I am, not wholly so,
 Since quickened by Thy breath;
 Oh lead me wheresoe'er I go,
 Through this day's life or death.

This day be bread and peace my lot: 45
 All else beneath the sun,
 Thou know'st if best bestowed or not;
 And let Thy will be done.

To Thee whose temple is all space,
 Whose altar earth, sea, skies, 50
 One chorus let all being raise,
 All nature's incense rise!

OLIVER GOLDSMITH (1728-1774)

THE DESERTED VILLAGE

Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the
 plain;
 Where health and plenty cheered the
 laboring swain,
 Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid,
 And parting summer's lingering blooms
 delayed:
 Dear lovely bowers of innocence and
 ease, 5
 Seats of my youth, when every sport could
 please,
 How often have I loitered o'er thy green,
 Where humble happiness endeared each
 scene!

How often have I paused on every charm,
 The sheltered cot, the cultivated farm, ¹⁰
 The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
 The decent church that topped the neigh-
 boring hill,
 The hawthorn bush, with seats beneath
 the shade
 For talking age and whispering lovers
 made!
 How often have I blest the coming day, ¹⁵
 When toil remitting lent its turn to play,
 And all the village train, from labor free,
 Led up their sports beneath the spreading
 tree,
 While many a pastime circled in the shade,
 The young contending as the old sur-
 veyed; ²⁰
 And many a gambol frolicked o'er the
 ground,
 And sleights of art and feats of strength
 went round.
 And still, as each repeated pleasure tired,
 Succeeding sports the mirthful band in-
 spired;
 The dancing pair that simply sought re-
 nown ²⁵
 By holding out to tire each other down;
 The swain mistrustless of his smutted face,
 While secret laughter tittered round the
 place;
 The bashful virgin's sidelong looks of love,
 The matron's glance that would those
 looks reprove. ³⁰
 These were thy charms, sweet village!
 sports like these,
 With sweet succession, taught even toil to
 please:
 These round thy bowers their cheerful
 influence shed:
 These were thy charms—but all these
 charms are fled.
 Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the
 lawn, ³⁵
 Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms
 withdrawn;
 Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is
 seen,
 And desolation saddens all thy green:
 One only master grasps the whole domain,
 And half a tillage stints thy smiling
 plain. ⁴⁰
 No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,
 But, choked with sedges, works its weedy
 way;

Along the glades, a solitary guest,
 The hollow sounding bittern guards its
 nest;
 Amidst thy desert walks the lapwing
 flies, ⁴⁵
 And tires their echoes with unvaried cries.
 Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,
 And the long grass o'ertops the moulder-
 ing wall;
 And trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's
 hand,
 Far, far away thy children leave the land.
 Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a
 prey, ⁵¹
 Where wealth accumulates, and men
 decay:
 Princes and lords may flourish, or may
 fade;
 A breath can make them, as a breath has
 made:
 But a bold peasantry, their country's
 pride, ⁵⁵
 When once destroyed, can never be sup-
 plied.
 A time there was, ere England's griefs
 began,
 When every rood of ground maintained
 its man;
 For him light labor spread her wholesome
 store,
 Just gave what life required, but gave no
 more: ⁶⁰
 His best companions, innocence and
 health;
 And his best riches, ignorance of wealth.
 But times are altered; trade's unfeeling
 train
 Usurp the land and dispossess the swain;
 Along the lawn, where scattered hamlets
 rose, ⁶⁵
 Unwieldy wealth and cumbrous pomp re-
 pose,
 And every want to opulence allied,
 And every pang that folly pays to pride.
 These gentle hours that plenty bade to
 bloom,
 Those calm desires that asked but little
 room, ⁷⁰
 Those healthful sports that graced the
 peaceful scene,
 Lived in each look, and brightened all the
 green;
 These, far departing, seek a kinder shore,
 And rural mirth and manners are no more.

Sweet Auburn! parent of the blissful
hour, 75
Thy glades forlorn confess the tyrant's
power.

Here, as I take my solitary rounds
Amidst thy tangling walks and ruined
grounds,

And, many a year elapsed, return to view
Where once the cottage stood, the haw-
thorn grew, 80

Remembrance wakes with all her busy
train,

Swells at my breast, and turns the past to
pain.

In all my wanderings round this world
of care,

In all my griefs—and God has given my
share—

I still had hopes, my latest hours to crown,
Amidst these humble bowers to lay me
down; 86

To husband out life's taper at the close,
And keep the flame from wasting by re-
pose;

I still had hopes, for pride attends us still,
Amidst the swains to show my book-
learned skill, 90

Around my fire an evening group to
draw,

And tell of all I felt, and all I saw;
And, as an hare whom hounds and horns
pursue

Pants to the place from whence at first
she flew,

I still had hopes, my long vexations
past, 95

Here to return—and die at home at last.

O blest retirement, friend to life's de-
cline,

Retreats from care, that never must be
mine,

How happy he who crowns in shades like
these

A youth of labor with an age of ease; 100
Who quits a world where strong tempta-
tions try,

And, since 'tis hard to combat, learns to
fly!

For him no wretches, born to work and
weep,

Explore the mine, or tempt the dangerous
deep;

No surly porter stands in guilty state, 105
To spurn imploring famine from the gate;

But on he moves to meet his latter end,
Angels around befriending virtue's friend;
Bends to the grave with unperceived de-
cay,

While resignation gently slopes the way;
And, all his prospects brightening to the
last, 111

His heaven commences ere the world be
past!

Sweet was the sound, when oft at even-
ing's close

Up yonder hill the village murmur rose;
There, as I passed with careless steps and
slow, 115

The mingling notes came softened from
below;

The swain responsive as the milk-maid
sung,

The sober herd that lowed to meet their
young,

The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the
pool,

The playful children just let loose from
school, 120

The watch-dog's voice that bayed the
whispering wind,

And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant
mind;—

These all in sweet confusion sought the
shade,

And filled each pause the nightingale had
made.

But now the sounds of population fail, 125
No cheerful murmurs fluctuate in the
gale,

No busy steps the grass-grown footway
tread,

For all the bloomy flush of life is fled.
All but yon widowed, solitary thing,

That feebly bends beside the plashy
spring; 130

She, wretched matron, forced in age, for
bread,

To strip the brook with mantling cresses
spread,

To pick her wintry faggot from the thorn,
To seek her nightly shed, and weep till
morn;

She only left of all the harmless train, 135
The sad historian of the pensive plain.

Near yonder copse, where once the
garden smiled,

And still where many a garden flower
grows wild;

There, where a few torn shrubs the place
disclose,
The village preacher's modest mansion
rose. 140
A man he was to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a
year;
Remote from towns he ran his godly
race,
Nor e'er had changed, nor wished to
change his place;
Unpractised he to fawn, or seek for
power, 145
By doctrines fashioned to the varying
hour;
Far other aims his heart had learned to
prize,
More skilled to raise the wretched than to
rise.
His house was known to all the vagrant
train;
He chid their wanderings but relieved
their pain: 150
The long-remembered beggar was his
guest,
Whose beard descending swept his aged
breast;
The ruined spendthrift, now no longer
proud,
Claimed kindred there, and had his claims
allowed;
The broken soldier, kindly bade to
stay, 155
Sat by the fire, and talked the night away,
Wept o'er his wounds or, tales of sorrow
done,
Shouldered his crutch and showed how
fields were won.
Pleased with his guests, the good man
learned to glow,
And quite forgot their vices in their woe;
Careless their merits or their faults to
scan, 161
His pity gave ere charity began.
Thus to relieve the wretched was his
pride,
And e'en his failings leaned to virtue's
side;
But in his duty prompt at every call, 165
He watched and wept, he prayed and felt
for all;
And, as a bird each fond endearment tries
To tempt its new-fledged offspring to the
skies,

He tried each art, reprov'd each dull de-
lay,
Allured to brighter worlds, and led the
way. 170
Beside the bed where parting life was
laid,
And sorrow, guilt, and pain by turns dis-
mayed,
The reverend champion stood. At his
control
Despair and anguish fled the struggling
soul;
Comfort came down the trembling wretch
to raise, 175
And his last faltering accents whispered
praise.
At church, with meek and unaffected
grace,
His looks adorned the venerable place;
Truth from his lips prevailed with double
sway,
And fools, who come to scoff, remained to
pray. 180
The service past, around the pious man,
With steady zeal, each honest rustic ran;
Even children followed with endearing
wile,
And plucked his gown to share the good
man's smile.
His ready smile a parent's warmth ex-
pressed;
Their welfare pleased him, and their cares
distracted: 186
To them his heart, his love, his griefs were
given,
But all his serious thoughts had rest in
heaven.
As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves
the storm, 190
Though round its breast the rolling clouds
are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.
Beside yon straggling fence that skirts
the way,
With blossomed furze unprofitably gay,
There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to
rule, 195
The village master taught his little school.
A man severe he was, and stern to view;
I knew him well, and every truant knew;
Well had the boding tremblers learned to
trace
The day's disasters in his morning face; 200

Full well they laughed with counter-
feited glee

At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;
Full well the busy whisper circling round
Conveyed the dismal tidings when he
frowned.

Yet he was kind, or, if severe in aught, ²⁰⁵
The love he bore to learning was in fault;
The village all declared how much he
knew:

'Twas certain he could write, and cipher
too;

Lands he could measure, terms and tides
presage,

And even the story ran that he could
gauge; ²¹⁰

In arguing, too, the parson owned his skill,
For, even though vanquished, he could
argue still;

While words of learned length and thun-
dering sound

Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around;
And still they gazed, and still the wonder
grew, ²¹⁵

That one small head could carry all he
knew.

But past is all his fame. The very spot
Where many a time he triumphed is for-
got.

Near yonder thorn that lifts its head on
high,

Where once the sign-post caught the pass-
ing eye, ²²⁰

Low lies that house where nut-brown
draughts inspired,

Where graybeard mirth and smiling toil
retired,

Where village statesmen talked with looks
profound,

And news much older than their ale went
round.

Imagination fondly stoops to trace ²²⁵

The parlor splendors of that festive place:
The white-washed wall, the nicely sanded
floor,

The varnished clock that clicked behind
the door;

The chest contrived a double debt to pay,
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by
day; ²³⁰

The pictures placed for ornament and
use,

The twelve good rules, the royal game of
goose;

The hearth, except when winter chilled
the day,

With aspen boughs and flowers and fennel
gay;

While broken tea-cups, wisely kept for
show, ²³⁵

Ranged o'er the chimney, glistened in a
row.

Vain transitory splendors! could not all
Reprieve the tottering mansion from its
fall?

Obscure it sinks, nor shall it more impart
An hour's importance to the poor man's
heart. ²⁴⁰

Thither no more the peasant shall repair
To sweet oblivion of his daily care;

No more the farmer's news, the barber's
tale,

No more the woodman's ballad shall pre-
vail;

No more the smith his dusky brow shall
clear, ²⁴⁵

Relax his ponderous strength, and lean
to hear;

The host himself no longer shall be found
Careful to see the mantling bliss go round;
Nor the coy maid, half willing to be
pressed,

Shall kiss the cup to pass it to the rest. ²⁵⁰

Yes! let the rich deride, the proud dis-
dain,

These simple blessings of the lowly train;
To me more dear, congenial to my heart,

One native charm, than all the gloss of art.
Spontaneous joys, where nature has its
play, ²⁵⁵

The soul adopts, and owns their first-born
sway;

Lightly they frolic o'er the vacant mind,
Unenvied, unmolested, unconfined.

But the long pomp, the midnight mas-
querade,

With all the freaks of wanton wealth ar-
rayed— ²⁶⁰

In these, ere triflers half their wish ob-
tain,

The toiling pleasure sickens into pain;
And, even while fashion's brightest arts

decoy,
The heart distrusting asks if this be joy.

Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen who
survey ²⁶⁵

The rich man's joy increase, the poor's
decay,

'Tis yours to judge, how wide the limits
stand
Between a splendid and an happy land.
Proud swells the tide with loads of
freighted ore,
And shouting Folly hails them from her
shore; 270
Hoards even beyond the miser's wish
abound,
And rich men flock from all the world
around.
Yet count our gains! This wealth is but
a name
That leaves our useful products still the
same.
Not so the loss. The man of wealth and
pride 275
Takes up a space that many poor sup-
plied;
Space for his lake, his park's extended
bounds,
Space for his horses, equipage, and hounds:
The robe that wraps his limbs in silken
sloth
Has robbed the neighboring fields of half
their growth; 280
His seat, where solitary sports are seen,
Indignant spurns the cottage from the
green:
Around the world each needful product
flies,
For all the luxuries the world supplies;
While thus the land adorned for pleasure
all 285
In barren splendor feebly waits the fall.
As some fair female unadorned and
plain,
Secure to please while youth confirms her
reign,
Slights every borrowed charm that dress
supplies,
Nor shares with art the triumph of her
eyes; 290
But when those charms are past, for
charms are frail,
When time advances, and when lovers
fail,
She then shines forth, solicitous to bless,
In all the glaring impotence of dress.
Thus fares the land by luxury betrayed: 295
In nature's simplest charms at first ar-
rayed,
But verging to decline, its splendors rise,
Its vistas strike, its palaces surprise;

While, scourged by famine from the smil-
ing land
The mournful peasant leads his humble
band, 300
And while he sinks, without one arm to
save,
The country blooms—a garden and a
grave.
Where then, ah! where, shall poverty
reside,
To 'scape the pressure of contiguous pride?
If to some common's fenceless limits
strayed 305
He drives his flock to pick the scanty
blade,
Those fenceless fields the sons of wealth
divide,
And even the bare-worn common is denied.
If to the city sped—what waits him
there?
To see profusion that he must not share; 310
To see ten thousand baneful arts combined
To pamper luxury, and thin mankind;
To see those joys the sons of pleasure
know
Extorted from his fellow-creature's woe.
Here while the courtier glitters in bro-
cade, 315
There the pale artist¹ plies the sickly trade;
Here while the proud their long-drawn
pomp display,
There the black gibbet glooms beside the
way.
The dome where pleasure holds her mid-
night reign
Here, richly decked, admits the gorgeous
train: 320
Tumultuous grandeur crowds the blazing
square,
The rattling chariots clash, the torches
glare.
Sure scenes like these no troubles e'er an-
noy!
Sure these denote one universal joy!
Are these thy serious thoughts?—Ah, turn
thine eyes 325
Where the poor houseless shivering female
lies.
She once, perhaps, in village plenty blest,
Has wept at tales of innocence distressed;
Her modest looks the cottage might adorn,
Sweet as the primrose peeps beneath the
thorn: 330

¹ artisan.

Now lost to all; her friends, her virtue, fled,
 Near her betrayer's door she lays her
 head,
 And, pinched with cold, and shrinking
 from the shower,
 With heavy heart deplores that luckless
 hour,
 When idly first, ambitious of the town, 335
 She left her wheel and robes of country
 brown.
 Do thine, sweet Auburn,—thine, the
 loveliest train,—
 Do thy fair tribes participate her pain?
 Even now, perhaps, by cold and hunger
 led,
 At proud men's doors they ask a little
 bread! 340
 Ah, no! To distant climes, a dreary
 scene,
 Where half the convex world intrudes
 between,
 Through torrid tracts with fainting steps
 they go,
 Where wild Altama murmurs to their woe.
 Far different there from all that charmed
 before 345
 The various terrors of that horrid shore;
 Those blazing suns that dart a downward
 ray,
 And fiercely shed intolerable day;
 Those matted woods, where birds forget
 to sing,
 But silent bats in drowsy clusters cling; 350
 Those poisonous fields with rank luxuri-
 ance crowned,
 Where the dark scorpion gathers death
 around;
 Where at each step the stranger fears to
 wake
 The rattling terrors of the vengeful snake;
 Where crouching tigers wait their hapless
 prey, 355
 And savage men more murderous still
 than they;
 While oft in whirls the mad tornado flies,
 Mingling the ravaged landscape with the
 skies.
 Far different these from every former
 scene,
 The cooling brook, the grassy vested
 green, 360
 The breezy covert of the warbling grove,
 That only sheltered thefts of harmless
 love.

Good Heaven! what sorrows gloomed
 that parting day,
 That called them from their native walks
 away;
 When the poor exiles, every pleasure past,
 Hung round the bowers, and fondly looked
 their last, 366
 And took a long farewell, and wished in
 vain
 For seats like these beyond the western
 main,
 And shuddering still to face the distant
 deep,
 Returned and wept, and still returned to
 weep. 370
 The good old sire the first prepared to
 go
 To new-found worlds, and wept for other's
 woe;
 But for himself, in conscious virtue brave,
 He only wished for worlds beyond the
 grave.
 His lovely daughter, lovelier in her tears,
 The fond companion of his helpless
 years, 376
 Silent went next, neglectful of her charms,
 And left a lover's for a father's arms.
 With louder complaints the mother spoke her
 woes,
 And blest the cot where every pleasure
 rose, 380
 And kissed her thoughtless babes with
 many a tear,
 And clasped them close, in sorrow doubly
 dear,
 Whilst her fond husband strove to lend
 relief
 In all the silent manliness of grief.
 O luxury! thou curst by Heaven's de-
 cree, 385
 How ill exchanged are things like these for
 thee!
 How do thy potions, with insidious joy,
 Diffuse their pleasures only to destroy!
 Kingdoms, by thee to sickly greatness
 grown,
 Boast of a florid vigor not their own. 390
 At every draught more large and large
 they grow,
 A bloated mass of rank unwieldy woe;
 Till sapped their strength, and every part
 unsound,
 Down, down, they sink, and spread a ruin
 round.

Even now the devastation is begun, 395
 And half the business of destruction done;
 Even now, methinks, as pondering here I
 stand,
 I see the rural virtues leave the land.
 Down where yon anchoring vessel spreads
 the sail,
 That idly waiting flaps with every gale, 400
 Downward they move, a melancholy
 band,
 Pass from the shore, and darken all the
 strand.
 Contented Toil, and hospitable Care,
 And kind connubial Tenderness are there;
 And Piety with wishes placed above, 405
 And steady Loyalty, and faithful Love.
 And thou, sweet Poetry, thou loveliest
 maid,
 Still first to fly where sensual joys in-
 vade;
 Unfit in these degenerate times of shame
 To catch the heart, or strike for honest
 fame; 410
 Dear charming nymph, neglected and de-
 cied,
 My shame in crowds, my solitary pride;
 Thou source of all my bliss, and all my
 woe,
 That found'st me poor at first, and keep'st
 me so;
 Thou guide by which the nobler arts
 excel, 415
 Thou nurse of every virtue, fare thee
 well!
 Farewell, and oh! where'er thy voice be
 tried,
 On Torno's cliffs, or Pambamarca's side,
 Whether where equinoctial fervors glow,
 Or winter wraps the polar world in snow,
 Still let thy voice, prevailing over time, 421
 Redress the rigors of the inclement clime;
 Aid slighted truth with thy persuasive
 strain;
 Teach erring man to spurn the rage of
 gain;
 Teach him that states of native strength
 possessed, 425
 Though very poor, may still be very blest;
 That trade's proud empire hastes to swift
 decay,
 As ocean sweeps the labored mole away;
 While self-dependent power can time
 defy,
 As rocks resist the billows and the sky. 430

From THE RETALIATION

At a dinner so various, at such a repast,
 Who'd not be a glutton, and stick to the
 last?
 Here, waiter, more wine! let me sit while
 I'm able,
 Till all my companions sink under the
 table; 20
 Then, with chaos and blunders encircling
 my head,
 Let me ponder, and tell what I think of
 the dead.
 Here lies the good Dean, reunited to
 earth,
 Who mixed reason with pleasure, and
 wisdom with mirth;
 If he had any faults, he has left us in
 doubt, 25
 At least in six weeks I could not find 'em
 out;
 Yet some have declared, and it can't be
 denied 'em,
 That Slyboots was cursedly cunning to
 hide 'em.
 Here lies 'our good Edmund, whose
 genius was such,
 We scarcely can praise it, or blame it too
 much; 30
 Who, born for the universe, narrowed his
 mind,
 And to party gave up what was meant for
 mankind:
 Though fraught with all learning, yet
 straining his throat
 To persuade Tommy Townshend to lend
 him a vote;
 Who, too deep for his hearers, still went
 on refining, 35
 And thought of convincing, while they
 thought of dining;
 Though equal to all things, for all things
 unfit;
 Too nice for a statesman, too proud for a
 wit;
 For a patriot too cool; for a drudge dis-
 obedient;
 And too fond of the right to pursue the
 expedient. 40
 In short, 'twas his fate, unemployed or in
 place, sir,
 To eat mutton cold, and cut blocks with a
 razor.

* * * * *

Here lies David Garrick, describe me
 who can
 An abridgment of all that was pleasant
 in man;
 As an actor, confessed without rival to
 shine; 95
 As a wit, if not first, in the very first
 line;
 Yet with talents like these, and an excel-
 lent heart,
 The man had his failings, a dupe to his art;
 Like an ill-judging beauty his colors he
 spread,
 And beplastered with rouge his own nat-
 ural red. 100
 On the stage he was natural, simple,
 affecting,
 'Twas only that when he was off he was
 acting.
 With no reason on earth to go out of his
 way,
 He turned and he varied full ten times a
 day:
 Though secure of our hearts, yet con-
 foundedly sick 105
 If they were not his own by finessing and
 trick;
 He cast off his friends as a huntsman his
 pack,
 For he knew when he pleased he could
 whistle them back.
 Of praise a mere glutton, he swallowed
 what came,
 And the puff of a dunce, he mistook it for
 fame; 110
 Till his relish grown callous, almost to
 disease,
 Who peppered the highest was surest to
 please.
 But let us be candid, and speak out our
 mind:
 If dunces applauded, he paid them in
 kind.
 Ye Kenricks, ye Kellys, and Woodfalls so
 grave, 115
 What a commerce was yours, while you
 got and you gave!
 How did Grub Street re-echo the shouts
 that you raised,
 When he was be-Rosciused, and you were
 bepraised!
 But peace to his spirit, wherever it flies,
 To act as an angel, and mix with the
 skies! 120

Those poets who owe their best fame to
 his skill,
 Shall still be his flatterers, go where he
 will;
 Old Shakespeare receive him with praise
 and with love,
 And Beaumonts and Bens be his Kellys
 above.

* * * * *

Here Reynolds is laid, and to tell you
 my mind,
 He has not left a wiser or better behind.
 His pencil was striking, resistless, and
 grand;
 His manners were gentle, complying, and
 bland; 140
 Still born to improve us in every part,
 His pencil our faces, his manners our
 heart;
 To coxcombs averse, yet most civilly
 steering,
 When they judged without skill he was
 still hard of hearing;
 When they talked of their Raphaels,
 Correggios, and stuff, 145
 He shifted his trumpet, and only took
 snuff.

From THE CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

LETTER LV

BEAU TIBBS AT HOME

I am apt to fancy I have contracted a
 new acquaintance whom it will be no
 easy matter to shake off. My little beau
 yesterday overtook me again in one of
 the public walks, and slapping me on
 the shoulder, saluted me with an air of
 the most perfect familiarity. His dress
 was the same as usual, except that he
 had more powder in his hair, wore a dirtier
 shirt, a pair of temple spectacles, and [10
 his hat under his arm.

As I knew him to be a harmless amusing
 little thing, I could not return his smiles
 with any degree of severity; so we walked
 forward on terms of the utmost intimacy,
 and in a few minutes discussed all the
 usual topics preliminary to particular
 conversation.

The oddities that marked his character, however, soon began to appear; he [20 bowed to several well-dressed persons, who, by their manner of returning the compliment, appeared perfect strangers. At intervals he drew out a pocket-book, seeming to take memorandums before all the company, with much importance and assiduity. In this manner he led me through the length of the whole walk, fretting at his absurdities, and fancying myself laughed at not less than him [30 by every spectator.

When we were got to the end of our procession, "Blast me," cries he, with an air of vivacity, "I never saw the Park so thin in my life before! There's no company at all to-day; not a single face to be seen."—"No company!" interrupted I peevishly; "no company where there is such a crowd? why, man, there's too much. What are the thousands [40 that have been laughing at us but company?"—"Lord, my dear," returned he, with the utmost good humor, "you seem immensely chagrined; but, blast me, when the world laughs at me, I laugh at the world, and so we are even. My Lord Trip, Bill Squash the Creolian, and I, sometimes make a party at being ridiculous; and so we say and do a thousand things for the joke's sake. But I see [50 you are grave, and if you are for a fine grave sentimental companion, you shall dine with me and my wife to-day; I must insist on 't. I'll introduce you to Mrs. Tibbs, a lady of as elegant qualifications as any in nature; she was bred (but that's between ourselves,) under the inspection of the Countess of All-night. A charming body of voice; but no more of that,—she will give us a song. You shall see my [60 little girl too, Carolina Wilhelmina Amelia Tibbs, a sweet pretty creature! I design her for my Lord Drumstick's eldest son; but that's in friendship, let it go no farther: she's but six years old, and yet she walks a minuet, and plays on the guitar immensely already. I intend she shall be as perfect as possible in every accomplishment. In the first place, I'll make her a scholar: I'll teach her Greek myself, [70 and learn that language purposely to instruct her; but let that be a secret."

Thus saying, without waiting for a reply, he took me by the arm, and hauled me along. We passed through many dark alleys and winding ways; for, from some motives to me unknown, he seemed to have a particular aversion to every frequented street; at last, however, we got to the door of a dismal-looking [80 house in the outlets of the town, where he informed me he chose to reside for the benefit of the air.

We entered the lower door, which ever seemed to lie most hospitably open; and I began to ascend an old and creaking staircase, when, as he mounted to show me the way, he demanded, whether I delighted in prospects; to which answering in the affirmative, "Then," [90 says he, "I shall show you one of the most charming in the world, out of my window; we shall see the ships sailing, and the whole country for twenty miles round, tip top, quite high. My Lord Swamp would give ten thousand guineas for such a one; but, as I sometimes pleasantly tell him, I always love to keep my prospects at home, that my friends may visit me the oftener." [100

By this time we were arrived as high as the stairs would permit us to ascend, till we came to what he was facetiously pleased to call the first floor down the chimney; and knocking at the door, a voice from within demanded, "Who's there?" My conductor answered that it was him. But this not satisfying the querist, the voice again repeated the demand; to which he answered louder [110 than before; and now the door was opened by an old woman with cautious reluctance.

When we were got in, he welcomed me to his house with great ceremony, and turning to the old woman, asked where was her lady? "Good troth," replied she, in a peculiar dialect, "she's washing your twa shirts at the next door, because they have taken an oath against lending out the tub any longer."—"My two [120 shirts!" cried he in a tone that faltered with confusion, "what does the idiot mean?"—"I ken what I mean weel enough," replied the other; "she's washing your twa shirts at the next door, because——"—"Fire and fury, no more

of thy stupid explanations!" cried he; "go and inform her we have got company. Were that Scotch hag," continued he, turning to me, "to be for ever in my [130] family, she would never learn politeness, nor forget that absurd poisonous accent of hers, or testify the smallest specimen of breeding or high life; and yet it is very surprising too, as I had her from a parliament man, a friend of mine from the Highlands, one of the politest men in the world; but that's a secret."

We waited some time for Mrs. Tibbs' arrival, during which interval I had [140] a full opportunity of surveying the chamber and all its furniture, which consisted of four chairs with old wrought bottoms, that he assured me were his wife's embroidery; a square table that had been once jannaped; a cradle in one corner, a lumbering cabinet in the other; a broken shepherdess, and a mandarin without a head, were stuck over the chimney; and round the walls several paltry un- [150] framed pictures, which, he observed, were all his own drawing. "What do you think, sir, of that head in the corner, done in the manner of Grisoni? there's the true keeping in it; it is my own face, and though there happens to be no likeness, a Countess offered me a hundred for its fellow: I refused her, for, hang it, that would be mechanical, you know."

The wife at last made her appear- [160] ance, at once a slattern and a coquette; much emaciated, but still carrying the remains of beauty. She made twenty apologies for being seen in such odious dishabille, but hoped to be excused, as she had stayed out all night at the Gardens with the Countess, who was excessively fond of the horns. "And indeed, my dear," added she, turning to her husband, "his lordship drank your [170] health in a bumper." "Poor Jack!" cries he, "a dear good-natured creature, I know he loves me. But I hope, my dear, you have given orders for dinner; you need make no great preparations neither, there are but three of us; something elegant:—a little will do—a turbot, an ortolan, a ——" "Or what do you think, my dear," interrupts the wife, "of a nice pretty bit of ox-cheek, piping [180]

hot, and dressed with a little of my own sauce?" "The very thing," replies he; "it will eat best with some smart bottled beer: but be sure to let us have the sauce his Grace was so fond of. I hate your immense loads of meat; that is country all over; extremely disgusting to those who are in the least acquainted with high life."

By this time my curiosity began [190] to abate, and my appetite to increase; the company of fools may at first make us smile, but at last never fails of rendering us melancholy. I therefore pretended to a prior engagement, and after having shown my respect to the house, according to the fashion of the English, by giving the old servant a piece of money at the door, I took my leave: Mr. Tibbs assuring me that dinner, if I stayed, [200] would be ready at least in less than two hours.

LETTER LXXVII

A VISIT TO A SILK-MERCHANT

The shops of London are as well furnished as those of Pekin. Those of London have a picture hung at their door, informing the passengers what they have to sell, as those at Pekin have a board to assure the buyer that they have no intention to cheat him.

I was this morning to buy silk for a nightcap: immediately upon entering the mercer's shop, the master and his [10] two men, with wigs plastered with powder, appeared to ask my commands. They were certainly the civilest people alive; if I but looked, they flew to the place where I cast my eye; every motion of mine sent them running round the whole shop for my satisfaction. I informed them that I wanted what was good, and they showed me not less than forty pieces, and each was better than the former, [20] the prettiest pattern in nature, and the fittest in the world for nightcaps. "My very good friend," said I to the mercer, "you must not pretend to instruct me in silks; I know these in particular to be no better than your mere flimsy Bungees." —"That may be," cried the mercer,

who, I afterwards found, had never contradicted a man in his life; "I cannot pretend to say but they may; but I [30 can assure you, my Lady Trail has had a sack from this piece this very morning."—"But, friend," said I, "though my lady has chosen a sack from it, I see no necessity that I should wear it for a nightcap."—"That may be," returned he again, "yet what becomes a pretty lady, will at any time look well on a handsome gentleman." This short compliment was thrown in so very seasonably upon [40 my ugly face, that even though I disliked the silk, I desired him to cut me off the pattern of a nightcap.

While this business was consigned to his journeymen, the master himself took down some pieces of silk still finer than any I had yet seen, and spreading them before me, "There," cries he, "there's beauty; my Lord Snakeskin has bespoke the fellow to this for the birthnight [50 this very morning; it would look charmingly in waistcoats."—"But I don't want a waistcoat," replied I. "Not want a waistcoat!" returned the mercer, "then I would advise you to buy one; when waistcoats are wanted, you may depend upon it they will come dear. Always buy before you want, and you are sure to be well used, as they say in Cheapside." There was so much justice in his ad- [60 vice, that I could not refuse taking it; besides, the silk, which was really a good one, increased the temptation; so I gave orders for that too.

As I was waiting to have my bargains measured and cut, which, I know not how, they executed but slowly, during the interval the mercer entertained me with the modern manner of some of the nobility receiving company in their [70 morning gowns; "Perhaps, sir," adds he, "you have a mind to see what kind of silk is universally worn." Without waiting for my reply, he spreads a piece before me, which might be reckoned beautiful even in China. "If the nobility," continues he, "were to know I sold this to any under a Right Honorable, I should certainly lose their custom; you see, my lord, it is at once rich, tasty, and quite [80 the thing."—"I am no lord," interrupted

I—"I beg pardon," cried he; "but be pleased to remember, when you intend buying a morning gown, that you had an offer from me of something worth money. Conscience, sir, conscience is my way of dealing; you may buy a morning gown now, or you may stay till they become dearer and less fashionable; but it is not my business to advise." In short, [90 most reverend Fum, he persuaded me to buy a morning gown also, and would probably have persuaded me to have bought half the goods in his shop, if I had stayed long enough, or was furnished with sufficient money.

Upon returning home, I could not help reflecting, with some astonishment, how this very man, with such a confined education and capacity, was yet capable [100 of turning me as he thought proper, and moulding me to his inclinations! I knew he was only answering his own purposes, even while he attempted to appear solicitous about mine: yet, by a voluntary infatuation, a sort of passion, compounded of vanity and good-nature, I walked into the snare with my eyes open, and put myself to future pain in order to give him immediate pleasure. The wisdom [110 of the ignorant somewhat resembles the instinct of animals; it is diffused in but a very narrow sphere, but within that circle it acts with vigor, uniformity, and success.

SAMUEL JOHNSON (1709-1784)

From THE RAMBLER

No. 121. Tuesday, May 14, 1751.

O imitatores, servum pecus!

Hor.

Away, ye imitators, servile herd!

Elphinston.

I have been informed by a letter from one of the universities, that among the youth from whom the next swarm of reasoners is to learn philosophy, and the next flight of beauties to hear elegies and sonnets, there are many who, instead of endeavoring by books and meditation

to form their own opinions, content themselves with the secondary knowledge which a convenient bench in a coffee [10 house can supply; and, without any examination or distinction, adopt the criticisms and remarks which happen to drop from those who have risen, by merit or fortune, to reputation and authority.

These humble retailers of knowledge my correspondent stigmatizes with the name of *Echoes*; and seems desirous that they should be made ashamed of lazy submission, and animated to attempts [20 after new discoveries and original sentiments.

It is very natural for young men to be vehement, acrimonious, and severe. For, as they seldom comprehend at once all the consequences of a position, or perceive the difficulties by which cooler and more experienced reasoners are restrained from confidence, they form their opinions with great precipitance. Seeing nothing [30 that can darken or embarrass the question, they expect to find their own opinion universally prevalent, and are inclined to impute uncertainty and hesitation to want of honesty rather than to knowledge. I may perhaps, therefore, be reproached by my lively correspondent, when it shall be found that I have no inclination to persecute these collectors of fortuitous knowledge with the severity re- [40 quired; yet, as I am now too old to be much pained by hasty censure, I shall not be afraid of taking into protection those whom I think condemned without a sufficient knowledge of their cause.

He that adopts the sentiments of another, whom he has reason to believe wiser than himself, is only to be blamed when he claims the honors that are not due but to the author, and endeavors [50 to deceive the world into praise and veneration; for to learn is the proper business of youth; and whether we increase our knowledge by books or by conversation, we are equally indebted to foreign assistance.

The greater part of students are not born with abilities to construct systems, or advance knowledge; nor can have any hope beyond that of becoming intelli- [60 gent hearers in the schools of art, of being

able to comprehend what others discover, and to remember what others teach. Even those to whom Providence hath allotted greater strength of understanding, can expect only to improve a single science. In every other part of learning, they must be content to follow opinions which they are not able to examine; and, even in that which they claim as peculiarly their own, can seldom add more than some small particle of knowledge to the hereditary stock devolved to them from ancient times, the collective labor of a thousand intellects.

In science, which, being fixed and limited, admits of no other variety than such as arises from new methods of distribution, or new arts of illustration, the necessity of following the traces of [80 our predecessors is indisputably evident; but there appears no reason why imagination should be subject to the same restraint. It might be conceived, that of those who profess to forsake the narrow paths of truth, every one may deviate towards a different point; since, though rectitude is uniform and fixed, obliquity may be infinitely diversified. The roads of science are narrow, so that they [90 who travel them must either follow or meet one another; but in the boundless regions of possibility which fiction claims for her dominion, there are surely a thousand recesses unexplored, a thousand flowers unexhausted, combinations of imagery yet unobserved, and races of ideal inhabitants not hitherto described.

Yet, whatever hope may persuade or reason evince, experience can boast [100 of very few additions to ancient fable. The wars of Troy, and the travels of Ulysses, have furnished almost all succeeding poets with incidents, characters, and sentiments. The Romans are confessed to have attempted little more than to display in their own tongue the inventions of the Greeks. There is in all their writings such a perpetual recurrence of allusions to the tales of the [110 fabulous age, that they must be confessed often to want that power of giving pleasure which novelty supplies; nor can we wonder that they excelled so much in the graces of diction, when we consider

how rarely they were employed in search of new thoughts.

The warmest admirers of the great Mantuan poet can extol him for little more than the skill with which he has, [120 by making his hero both a traveller and a warrior, united the beauties of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* in one composition: yet his judgment was perhaps sometimes overborne by his avarice of the Homeric treasures; and, for fear of suffering a sparkling ornament to be lost, he has inserted it where it cannot shine with its original splendor.

When Ulysses visited the infernal [130 regions, he found among the heroes that perished at Troy, his competitor Ajax, who, when the arms of Achilles were adjudged to Ulysses, died by his own hand in the madness of disappointment. He still appeared to resent, as on earth, his loss and disgrace. Ulysses endeavored to pacify him with praises and submission; but Ajax walked away without reply. This passage has always been [140 considered as eminently beautiful; because Ajax, the haughty chief, the unlettered soldier, of unshaken courage, of immovable constancy, but without the power of recommending his own virtues by eloquence, or enforcing his assertions by any other argument than the sword, had no way of making his anger known but by gloomy sullenness and dumb ferocity. His hatred of a man whom [150 he conceived to have defeated him only by volubility of tongue, was therefore naturally shown by silence, more contemptuous and piercing than any words that so rude an orator could have found, and by which he gave his enemy no opportunity of exerting the only power in which he was superior.

When Æneas is sent by Virgil to the shades, he meets Dido, the queen of [160 Carthage, whom his perfidy had hurried to the grave; he accosts her with tenderness and excuses; but the lady turns away like Ajax in mute disdain. She turns away like Ajax; but she resembles him in none of those qualities which give either dignity or propriety to silence. She might, without any departure from the tenor of her conduct, have burst out, like other

injured women, into clamor, re- [170 proach, and denunciation; but Virgil had his imagination full of Ajax, and therefore could not prevail on himself to teach Dido any other mode of resentment.

If Virgil could be thus seduced by imitation, there will be little hope that common wits should escape; and accordingly we find that, besides the universal and acknowledged practice of copying the ancients, there has prevailed in [180 every age a particular species of fiction. At one time all truth was conveyed in allegory; at another, nothing was seen but in a vision; at one period, all the poets followed sheep, and every event produced a pastoral; at another, they busied themselves wholly in giving directions to a painter.

It is indeed easy to conceive why any fashion should become popular, by [190 which idleness is favored and imbecility assisted; but surely no man of genius can much applaud himself for repeating a tale with which the audience is already tired, and which could bring no honor to any but its inventor.

There are, I think, two schemes of writing on which the laborious wits of the present time employ their faculties. One is the adaptation of sense to all the [200 rhymes which our language can supply to some word that makes the burden of the stanza; but this, as it has been only used in a kind of amorous burlesque, can scarcely be censured with much acrimony. The other is the imitation of Spenser, which, by the influence of some men of learning and genius, seems likely to gain upon the age, and therefore deserves to be more attentively considered. [210

To imitate the fictions and sentiments of Spenser can incur no reproach, for allegory is perhaps one of the most pleasing vehicles of instruction. But I am very far from extending the same respect to his diction or his stanza. His style was in his own time allowed to be vicious, so darkened with old words and peculiarities of phrase, and so remote from common use, that Jonson boldly pronounces [220 him to have written no language. His stanza is at once difficult and unpleasing; tiresome to the ear by its uniformity,

and to the attention by its length. It was at first formed in imitation of the Italian poets, without due regard to the genius of our language. The Italians have little variety of termination, and were forced to contrive such a stanza as might admit the greatest number of similar [230 rhymes; but our words end with so much diversity, that it is seldom convenient for us to bring more than two of the same sound together. If it be justly observed by Milton, that rhyme obliges poets to express their thoughts in improper terms, these improprieties must always be multiplied as the difficulty of rhyme is increased by long concatenations.

The imitators of Spenser are in- [240 deed not very rigid censors of themselves, for they seem to conclude that, when they have disfigured their lines with a few obsolete syllables, they have accomplished their design, without considering that they ought not only to admit old words, but to avoid new. The laws of imitation are broken by every word introduced since the time of Spenser, as the character of Hector is violated by quoting Aris- [250 totle in the play. It would indeed be difficult to exclude from a long poem all modern phrases, though it is easy to sprinkle it with gleanings of antiquity. Perhaps, however, the style of Spenser might by long labor be justly copied; but life is surely given us for higher purposes than to gather what our ancestors have wisely thrown away, and to learn what is of no value but because it has [260 been forgotten.

LETTER TO THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD

February 7, 1755.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL
OF CHESTERFIELD.

MY LORD,

I have been lately informed, by the proprietor of the World, that two papers, in which my Dictionary is recommended to the public, were written by your Lordship. To be so distinguished, is an honor, which, being very little accustomed to favors from the great, I know not well

how to receive, or in what terms to acknowledge.

When, upon some slight encour- [10 agement, I first visited your Lordship, I was overpowered, like the rest of mankind, by the enchantment of your address; and could not forbear to wish that I might boast myself *Le vainqueur du vainqueur de la terre*;—that I might obtain that regard for which I saw the world contending; but I found my attendance so little encouraged, that neither pride nor modesty would suffer me [20 to continue it. When I had once addressed your Lordship in public, I had exhausted all the art of pleasing which a retired and uncourtly scholar can possess. I had done all that I could; and no man is well pleased to have his all neglected, be it ever so little.

Seven years, my Lord, have now past, since I waited in your outward rooms, or was repulsed from your door; dur- [30 ing which time I have been pushing on my work through difficulties, of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it, at last, to the verge of publication, without one act of assistance, one word of encouragement, or one smile of favor. Such treatment I did not expect, for I never had a Patron before.

The shepherd in Virgil grew at last acquainted with Love, and found him a [40 native of the rocks.

Is not a Patron, my Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and, when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help? The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labors, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I am indifferent, and cannot enjoy it; till I am solitary, and cannot [50 impart it; till I am known, and do not want it. I hope it is no very cynical asperity, not to confess obligations where no benefit has been received, or to be unwilling that the Public should consider me as owing that to a Patron, which Providence has enabled me to do for myself.

Having carried on my work thus far with so little obligation to any favorer [60 of learning, I shall not be disappointed

though I should conclude it, if less be possible, with less; for I have been long wakened from that dream of hope, in which I once boasted myself with so much exultation,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble
Most obedient servant,
SAM. JOHNSON.

LETTER TO JAMES MACPHERSON

MR. JAMES MACPHERSON,

I received your foolish and impudent letter. Any violence offered me I shall do my best to repel; and what I cannot do for myself, the law shall do for me. I hope I shall never be deterred from detecting what I think a cheat, by the menaces of a ruffian.

What would you have me retract? I thought your book an imposture; I think it an imposture still. For this [10] opinion I have given my reasons to the public, which I here dare you to refute. Your rage I defy. Your abilities, since your Homer, are not so formidable; and what I hear of your morals inclines me to pay regard not to what you shall say, but to what you shall prove. You may print this if you will.

SAM. JOHNSON.

THE LIVES OF THE ENGLISH POETS

From MILTON

The English poems, though they make no promises of *Paradise Lost*, have this evidence of genius, that they have a cast original and unborrowed. But their peculiarity is not excellence: if they differ from verses of others, they differ for the worse; for they are too often distinguished by repulsive harshness; the combinations of words are new, but they are not pleasing; the rhymes and epithets seem to [10] be laboriously sought, and violently applied.

That in the early parts of his life he wrote with much care appears from his manuscripts, happily preserved at Cambridge, in which many of his smaller works are found as they were first written, with

the subsequent corrections. Such reliques show how excellence is acquired: what we hope ever to do with ease, we may learn [20] first to do with diligence.

Those who admire the beauties of this great poet, sometimes force their own judgment into false approbation of his little pieces, and prevail upon themselves to think that admirable which is only singular. All that short compositions can commonly attain is neatness and elegance. Milton never learned the art of doing little things with grace; he overlooked [30] the milder excellence of suavity and softness: he was a "lion" that had no skill "in dandling the kid."

One of the poems upon which most praise has been bestowed is *Lycidas*; of which the diction is harsh, the rhymes uncertain, and the numbers unpleasing. What beauty there is we must therefore seek in the sentiments and images. It is not to be considered as the effusion [40] of real passion; for passion runs not after remote allusions and obscure opinions. Passion plucks no berries from the myrtle and ivy, nor calls upon Arethuse and Mincius, nor tells of "rough satyrs and fauns with cloven heel." Where there is leisure for fiction there is little grief.

In this poem there is no nature, for there is no truth; there is no art, for there is nothing new. Its form is that of a [50] pastoral, easy, vulgar, and therefore disgusting: whatever images it can supply are long ago exhausted; and its inherent improbability always forces dissatisfaction on the mind. When Cowley tells of Hervey that they studied together, it is easy to suppose how much he must miss the companion of his labors, and the partner of his discoveries; but what image of tenderness can be excited by these [60] lines!

"We drove afield, and both together heard
What time the grey fly winds her sultry
horn,
Battening our flocks with the fresh dews
of night."

We know that they never drove afield, and that they had no flocks to batten; and though it be allowed that the representation may be allegorical, the true

meaning is so uncertain and remote, that it is never sought because it cannot [70 be known when it is found.

Among the flocks and copses and flowers appear the heathen deities, Jove and Phœbus, Neptune and Æolus, with a long train of mythological imagery, such as a college easily supplies. Nothing can less display knowledge, or less exercise invention, than to tell how a shepherd has lost his companion, and must now feed his flocks alone, without any judge [80 of his skill in piping; and how one god asks another god what has become of Lycidas, and how neither god can tell. He who thus grieves will excite no sympathy; he who thus praises will confer no honor.

This poem has yet a grosser fault. With these trifling fictions are mingled the most awful and sacred truths, such as ought never to be polluted with [90 such irreverent combinations. The shepherd likewise is now a feeder of sheep, and afterwards an ecclesiastical pastor, a superintendent of a Christian flock. Such equivocations are always unskillful; but here they are indecent, and at least approach to impiety, of which, however, I believe the writer not to have been conscious.

Such is the power of reputation [100 justly acquired, that its blaze drives away the eye from nice examination. Surely no man could have fancied that he read *Lycidas* with pleasure, had he not known its author.

Of the two pieces, *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, I believe opinion is uniform; every man that reads them, reads them with pleasure. The author's design is not . . . merely to show how objects [110 derive their colors from the mind, by representing the operation of the same things upon the gay and the melancholy temper, or upon the same man as he is differently disposed; but rather how, among the successive variety of appearances, every disposition of mind takes hold on those by which it may be gratified.

* * * * *

By the general consent of critics, the first praise of genius is due to the [120

writer of an epic poem, as it requires an assemblage of all the powers which are singly sufficient for other compositions. Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth, by calling imagination to the help of reason. Epic poetry undertakes to teach the most important truths by the most pleasing precepts, and therefore relates some great event in the most affecting manner. History must sup- [130 ply the writer with the rudiments of narration, which he must improve and exalt by a nobler art, must animate by dramatic energy, and diversify by retrospection and anticipation; morality must teach him the exact bounds and different shades of vice and virtue; from policy and the practise of life he has to learn the discriminations of character, and the tendency of the passions, either single [140 or combined; and physiology must supply him with illustrations and images. To put these materials to poetical use, is required an imagination capable of painting nature and realizing fiction. Nor is he yet a poet till he has attained the whole extension of his language, distinguished all the delicacies of phrase, and all the colors of words, and learned to adjust their different sounds to all the [150 varieties of metrical modulation.

* * * * *

The subject of an epic poem is naturally an event of great importance. That of Milton is not the destruction of a city, the conduct of a colony, or the foundation of an empire. His subject is the fate of worlds, the revolutions of heaven and of earth; rebellion against the Supreme King, raised by the highest order of created beings; the overthrow of their [160 host and the punishment of their crime; the creation of a new race of reasonable creatures; their original happiness and innocence, their forfeiture of immortality, and their restoration to hope and peace.

* * * * *

Of his moral sentiments it is hardly praise to affirm that they excel those of all other poets; for this superiority he was indebted to his acquaintance with the sacred writings. The ancient epic [170 poets, wanting the light of Revelation,

were very unskilful teachers of virtue: their principal characters may be great, but they are not amiable. The reader may rise from their works with a greater degree of active or passive fortitude, and sometimes of prudence; but he will be able to carry away few precepts of justice, and none of mercy.

* * * * *

In Milton every line breathes sanctity of thought and purity of manners, except when the train of the narration requires the introduction of the rebellious spirits; and even they are compelled to acknowledge their subjection to God in such a manner as excites reverence, and confirms piety.

* * * * *

Something must be said of his versification. "The measure," he says, "is the English heroic verse without [190 rhyme]." . . .

"Rhyme," he says, and says truly, "is no necessary adjunct of true poetry." But perhaps of poetry as a mental operation metre or music is no necessary adjunct; it is however by the music of metre that poetry has been discriminated in all languages, and in languages melodiously constructed with a due proportion of long and short syllables, metre is [200 sufficient. But one language cannot communicate its rules to another; where metre is scanty and imperfect some help is necessary. The music of the English heroic line strikes the ear so faintly that it is easily lost, unless all the syllables of every line co-operate together; this co-operation can only be obtained by the preservation of every verse unmingled with another, as a distinct system [210 of sounds, and this distinctness is obtained and preserved by the artifice of rhyme. The variety of pauses, so much boasted by the lovers of blank verse, changes the measures of an English poet to the periods of a declaimer; and there are only a few skilful and happy readers of Milton, who enable their audience to perceive where the lines end or begin. "Blank verse," says an ingenious [220 critic, "seems to be verse only to the eye."

Poetry may subsist without rhyme, but English poetry will not often please; nor can rhyme ever be safely spared but where the subject is able to support itself. Blank verse makes some approach to that which is called the *lapidary style*; has neither the easiness of prose, nor the melody of numbers, and therefore tires by long continuance. Of the Italian [230 writers without rhyme, whom Milton alleges as precedents, not one is popular; what reason could urge in its defence, has been confuted by the ear.

But, whatever be the advantage of rhyme, I cannot prevail on myself to wish that Milton had been a rhymers, for I cannot wish his work to be other than it is; yet, like other heroes, he is to be admired rather than imitated. He [240 that thinks himself capable of astonishing, may write blank verse; but those that hope only to please, must condescend to rhyme.

The highest praise of genius is original invention. Milton cannot be said to have contrived the structure of an epic poem, and therefore owes reverence to that vigor and amplitude of mind to which all generations must be indebted for [250 the art of poetical narration, for the texture of the fable, the variation of incidents, the interposition of dialogue, and all the stratagems that surprise and enchain attention. But of all the borrowers from Homer, Milton is perhaps the least indebted. He was naturally a thinker for himself, confident of his own abilities, and disdainful of help and hindrance; he did not refuse admission to the [260 thoughts or images of his predecessors, but he did not seek them. From his contemporaries he neither courted nor received support; there is in his writings nothing by which the pride of other authors might be gratified, or favor gained; no exchange of praise, nor solicitation of support. His great works were performed under discountenance, and in blindness, but difficulties vanished at [270 his touch; he was born for whatever is arduous; and his work is not the greatest of heroic poems, only because it is not the first.

From DRYDEN

Criticism, either didactic or defensive, occupies almost all his prose, except those pages which he has devoted to his patrons; but none of his prefaces were ever thought tedious. They have not the formality of a settled style, in which the first half of a sentence betrays the other. The clauses are never balanced, nor the periods modelled; every word seems to drop by chance, though it [10] falls into its proper place. Nothing is cold or languid; the whole is airy, animated, and vigorous: what is little, is gay; what is great, is splendid. He may be thought to mention himself too frequently; but while he forces himself upon our esteem, we cannot refuse him to stand high in his own. Everything is excused by the play of images and the sprightliness of expression. Though all is [20] easy, nothing is feeble; though all seems careless, there is nothing harsh; and though since his earlier works more than a century has passed, they have nothing yet uncouth or obsolete.

He who writes much will not easily escape a manner, such a recurrence of particular modes as may be easily noted. Dryden is always "another and the same;" he does not exhibit a second [30] time the same elegances in the same form, nor appears to have any art other than that of expressing with clearness what he thinks with vigor. His style could not easily be imitated, either seriously or ludicrously; for, being always equable and always varied, it has no prominent or discriminative characters. The beauty who is totally free from disproportion of parts and features, cannot be ridiculed [40] by an overcharged resemblance.

From his prose, however, Dryden derives only his accidental and secondary praise; the veneration with which his name is pronounced by every cultivator of English literature is paid to him as he refined the language, improved the sentiments, and tuned the numbers of English Poetry.

About half a century of forced [50] thoughts and rugged metre, some advances towards nature and harmony had

been already made by Waller and Denham; they had shown that long discourses in rhyme grew more pleasing when they were broken unto couplets, and that verse consisted not only in the number but the arrangement of syllables.

But though they did much, who can deny that they left much to do? [60] Their works were not many, nor were their minds of very ample comprehension. More examples of more modes of composition were necessary for the establishment of regularity, and the introduction of propriety in word and thought.

Every language of a learned nation necessarily divides itself into diction scholastic and popular, grave and familiar, elegant and gross; and from a nice [70] distinction of these different parts arises a great part of the beauty of style. But if we except a few minds, the favorites of nature, to whom their original rectitude was in the place of rules, this delicacy of selection was little known to our authors: our speech lay before them in a heap of confusion, and every man took for every purpose what chance might offer him.

There was therefore before the time [80] of Dryden no poetical diction: no system of words at once refined from the grossness of domestic use, and free from the harshness of terms appropriated to particular arts. Words too familiar, or too remote, defeat the purpose of a poet. From those sounds which we hear on small or on coarse occasions, we do not easily receive strong impressions, or delightful images; and words to which [90] we are nearly strangers, whenever they occur, draw that attention on themselves which they should transmit to things.

Those happy combinations of words which distinguish poetry from prose had been rarely attempted; we had few elegances or flowers of speech: the roses had not yet been plucked from the bramble, or different colors had not yet been joined to enliven one another. [100]

It may be doubted whether Waller and Denham could have overborne the prejudices which had long prevailed, and which even then were sheltered by the protection of Cowley. The new versification, as it was called, may be considered

as owing its establishment to Dryden; from whose time it is apparent that English poetry has had no tendency to relapse to its former savageness. [110]

From ADDISON

At the school of the Chartreux . . . he . . . contracted that intimacy with Sir Richard Steele, which their joint labors have so effectually recorded.

Of this memorable friendship the greater praise must be given to Steele. It is not hard to love those from whom nothing can be feared, and Addison never considered Steele as a rival; but Steele lived, as he confesses, under an habitual [10] subjection to the predominating genius of Addison, whom he always mentioned with reverence, and treated with obsequiousness.

Addison, who knew his own dignity, could not always forbear to show it, by playing a little upon his admirer; but he was in no danger of retort: his jests were endured without resistance or resentment.

* * * * *

Before the *Tatler* and *Spectator*, if [20] the writers for the theatre are excepted, England had no masters of common life. No writers had yet undertaken to reform either the savageness of neglect or the impertinence of civility; to show when to speak, or to be silent; how to refuse, or how to comply. We had many books to teach us our more important duties, and to settle opinions in philosophy or politics; but an *Arbiter elegantiarum*, a judge of [30] propriety, was yet wanting, who should survey the track of daily conversation and free it from thorns and prickles, which tease the passer, though they do not wound him.

For this purpose nothing is so proper as the frequent publication of short papers, which we read not as study but amusement. If the subject be slight, the treatise likewise is short. The busy may [40] find time, and the idle may find patience.

* * * * *

That he always wrote as he would think it necessary to write now, cannot

be affirmed; his instructions were such as the characters of his readers made proper. That general knowledge which now circulates in common talk, was in his time rarely to be found. Men not professing learning were not ashamed of ignorance; and in the female world, any acquaintance with books was distinguished only to be censured. His purpose was to infuse literary curiosity, by gentle and unsuspected conveyance, into the gay, the idle, and the wealthy; he therefore presented knowledge in the most alluring form, not lofty and austere, but accessible and familiar. When he showed them their defects, he showed them likewise that they might be easily supplied. [50] His attempt succeeded; enquiry was awakened, and comprehension expanded. An emulation of intellectual elegance was excited, and from his time to our own, life has been gradually exalted, and conversation purified and enlarged.

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As a describer of life and manners, he must be allowed to stand perhaps the first of the first rank. His humor, which, as Steele observes, is peculiar to himself, [70] is so happily diffused as to give the grace of novelty to domestic scenes and daily occurrences. He never "outsteps the modesty of nature," nor raises merriment or wonder by the violation of truth. His figures neither divert by distortion, nor amaze by aggravation. He copies life with so much fidelity, that he can be hardly said to invent; yet his exhibitions have an air so much original that it [80] is difficult to suppose them not merely the product of imagination.

As a teacher of wisdom, he may be confidently followed. His religion has nothing in it enthusiastic or superstitious: he appears neither weakly credulous nor wantonly sceptical; his morality is neither dangerously lax, nor impracticably rigid. All the enchantment of fancy and all the cogency of argument are employed [90] to recommend to the reader his real interest, the care of pleasing the Author of his being. Truth is shown sometimes as the phantom of a vision, sometimes appears half-veiled in an allegory; some-

times attracts regard in the robes of fancy, and sometimes steps forth in the confidence of reason. She wears a thousand dresses, and all is pleasing.

Mille habet ornatus, mille decenter habet. [100]

His prose is the model of the middle style; on grave subjects not formal, on light occasions not groveling; pure without scrupulosity, and exact without apparent elaboration; always equable, and always easy, without glowing words or pointed sentences. Addison never deviates from his track to snatch a grace; he seeks no ambitious ornaments, and tries no hazardous inventions. His [110] page is always luminous, but never blazes in unexpected splendor.

It was apparently his principal endeavor to avoid all harshness and severity of diction; he is therefore sometimes verbose in his transitions and connections, and sometimes descends too much to the language of conversation; yet if his language had been less idiomatical it might have lost somewhat of its genuine [120] Anglicism. What he attempted, he performed; he is never feeble, and he did not wish to be energetic; he is never rapid, and he never stagnates. His sentences have neither studied amplitude, nor affected brevity; his periods, though not diligently rounded, are voluble and easy. Whoever wishes to attain an English style, familiar but not coarse, and elegant but not ostentatious, must give his [130] days and nights to the volumes of Addison.

From POPE

[Pope] professed to have learned his poetry from Dryden, whom, whenever an opportunity was presented, he praised through his whole life with unvaried liberality; and perhaps his character may receive some illustration if he be compared with his master.

* * * * *

Pope was not content to satisfy; he desired to excel, and therefore always endeavored to do his best: he did not [10] court the candor, but dared the judgment

of his reader, and, expecting no indulgence from others, he showed none to himself. He examined lines and words with minute and punctilious observation, and retouched every part with indefatigable diligence, till he had left nothing to be forgiven.

* * * * *

In acquired knowledge, the superiority must be allowed to Dryden, whose [20] education was more scholastic, and who before he became an author had been allowed more time for study, with better means of information. His mind has a larger range, and he collects his images and illustrations from a more extensive circumference of science. Dryden knew more of man in his general nature, and Pope in his local manners. The notions of Dryden were formed by compre- [30] hensive speculation, and those of Pope by minute attention. There is more dignity in the knowledge of Dryden, and more certainty in that of Pope.

Poetry was not the sole praise of either, for both excelled likewise in prose; but Pope did not borrow his prose from his predecessor. The style of Dryden is capricious and varied, that of Pope is cautious and uniform; Dryden obeys [40] the motions of his own mind, Pope constrains his mind to his own rules of composition. Dryden is sometimes vehement and rapid; Pope is always smooth, uniform, and gentle. Dryden's page is a natural field, rising into inequalities, and diversified by the varied exuberance of abundant vegetation; Pope's is a velvet lawn, shaven by the scythe, and levelled by the roller. [50]

Of genius, that power which constitutes a poet; that quality without which judgment is cold and knowledge is inert; that energy which collects, combines, amplifies, and animates—the superiority must, with some hesitation, be allowed to Dryden. It is not to be inferred that of this poetical vigor Pope had only a little, because Dryden had more; for every other writer since Milton must [60] give place to Pope; and even of Dryden it must be said, that if he has brighter paragraphs, he has not better poems.

Dryden's performances were always hasty, either excited by some external occasion, or extorted by domestic necessity; he composed without consideration, and published without correction. What his mind could supply at call, or gather in one excursion, was all that he sought, [70 and all that he gave. The dilatory caution of Pope enabled him to condense his sentiments, to multiply his images, and to accumulate all that study might produce, or chance might supply. If the flights of Dryden therefore are higher, Pope continues longer on the wing. If of Dryden's fire the blaze is brighter, of Pope's the heat is more regular and constant. Dryden often surpasses expectation, and Pope never falls below it. Dryden is read with frequent astonishment, and Pope with perpetual delight.

From GRAY

Gray's poetry is now to be considered, and I hope not to be looked on as an enemy to his name if I confess that I contemplate it with less pleasure than his life.

* * * * *

The *Prospect of Eton College* suggests nothing to Gray which every beholder does not equally think and feel. His supplication to Father Thames, to tell him who drives the hoop or tosses the ball, is [10 useless and puerile. Father Thames has no better means of knowing than himself. His epithet "buxom health" is not elegant; he seems not to understand the word. Gray thought his language more poetical as it was more remote from common use: finding in Dryden "honey redolent of Spring," an expression that reaches the utmost limits of our language, Gray drove it a little more beyond common apprehension, by making "gales" to be "redolent of joy and youth."

Of the *Ode on Adversity*, the hint was at first taken from *O Diva, gratum quae regis Antium*; but Gray has excelled his original by the variety of his sentiments, and by their moral application. Of this piece, at once poetical and rational, I

will not by slight objections violate the dignity. [30

My process has now brought me to the "Wonderful Wonder of Wonders," the two Sister Odes; by which, though either vulgar ignorance or common sense at first universally rejected them, many have been since persuaded to think themselves delighted. I am one of those that are willing to be pleased, and therefore would gladly find the meaning of the first stanza of *The Progress of Poesy*. [40

Gray seems in his rapture to confound the images of "spreading sound" and "running water." A "stream of music" may be allowed; but where does music, however "smooth and strong," after having visited the "verdant vales," "roll down the steep again," so as that "rocks and nodding groves rebellow to the roar"? If this be said of music, it is nonsense; if it be said of water, it is [50 nothing to the purpose.

The second stanza, exhibiting Mars's car and Jove's eagle, is unworthy of further notice. Criticism disdains to chase a schoolboy to his commonplaces.

* * * * *

The third stanza sounds big with Delphi, and Egean, and Ilissus, and Meander, and "hallowed fountain", and "solemn sound"; but in all Gray's odes there is a kind of cumbrous splendor which we [60 wish away. His position is at last false: in the time of Dante and Petrarch, from whom he derives our first school of poetry, Italy was overrun by "tyrant power" and "coward vice"; nor was our state much better when we first borrowed the Italian arts.

* * * * *

The *Bard* appears, at first view, to be . . . an imitation of the prophecy of Nereus. . . . [70

To select a singular event, and swell it to a giant's bulk by fabulous appendages of spectres and predictions, has little difficulty, for he that forsakes the probable may always find the marvellous. And it has little use: we are affected only as we believe; we are improved only as we find something to be imitated or de-

clined. I do not see that *The Bard* promotes any truth, moral or political. [80

* * * * *

These odes are marked by glittering accumulations of ungraceful ornaments: they strike, rather than please; the images are magnified by affectation; the language is labored into harshness. The mind of the writer seems to work with unnatural violence. "Double, double, toil and trouble." He has a kind of strutting dignity, and is tall by walking on tiptoe. His art and his struggle are too [90 visible, and there is too little appearance of ease and nature.

To say that he has no beauties, would be unjust: a man like him, of great learning, and great industry, could not but produce something valuable. When he pleases least, it can only be said that a good design was ill directed.

His translations of Northern and Welsh poetry deserve praise: the imagery is preserved, perhaps often improved; but the language is unlike the language of other poets.

In the character of his *Elegy* I rejoice to concur with the common reader; for by the common sense of readers uncorrupted with literary prejudices, after all the refinements of subtilty and the dogmatism of learning, must be finally decided all claim to poetical honors. The [110 *Church-yard* abounds with images which find a mirror in every mind, and with sentiments to which every bosom returns an echo. The four stanzas beginning "Yet even these bones," are to me original: I have never seen the notions in any other place; yet he that reads them here, persuades himself that he has always felt them. Had Gray written often thus it had been vain to blame, and useless [120 to praise him.

JAMES BOSWELL (1740–1795)

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON

From THE YEAR 1763

This is to me a memorable year; for in it I had the happiness to obtain the acquaintance of that extraordinary man

whose memoirs I am now writing; an acquaintance which I shall ever esteem as one of the most fortunate circumstances in my life. Though then but two-and-twenty, I had for several years read his works with delight and instruction, and had the highest reverence for their author, which had grown up in my fancy into a kind of mysterious veneration, by figuring to myself a state of solemn elevated abstraction, in which I supposed him to live in the immense metropolis of London. Mr. Gentleman, a native of Ireland, who passed some years in Scotland as a player, and as an instructor in the English language, a man whose talents and worth were depressed by misfortune, [20 had given me a representation of the figure and manner of *DICTIONARY JOHNSON!* as he was then generally called; and during my first visit to London, which was for three months in 1760, Mr. Derrick, the poet, who was Gentleman's friend and countryman, flattered me with hopes that he would introduce me to Johnson, an honor of which I was very ambitious. But he never found an [30 opportunity; which made me doubt that he had promised to do what was not in his power; till Johnson some years afterwards told me, "Derrick, Sir, might very well have introduced you. I had a kindness for Derrick, and am sorry he is dead."

In the summer of 1761 Mr. Thomas Sheridan was at Edinburgh, and delivered lectures upon the English Language and Public Speaking to large and respectable audiences. I was often in his company, and heard him frequently expatiate upon Johnson's extraordinary knowledge, talents, and virtues, repeat his pointed sayings, describe his particularities, and boast of his being his guest sometimes till two or three in the morning. At his house I hoped to have many opportunities of seeing the sage, as Mr. Sheridan obligingly assured me I should not be disappointed. [50

When I returned to London in the end of 1762, to my surprise and regret I found an irreconcilable difference had taken place between Johnson and Sheridan. A pension of two hundred pounds a year had been given to Sheridan. Johnson,

who, as has been already mentioned, thought slightly of Sheridan's art, upon hearing that he was also pensioned, exclaimed, "What! have they given *him* a pension? Then it is time for me to give up mine." Whether this proceeded from a momentary indignation, as if it were an affront to his exalted merit that a player should be awarded in the same manner with him, or was the sudden effect of a fit of peevishness, it was un- luckily said, and, indeed, cannot be justified. Mr. Sheridan's pension was [70 granted to him not as a player, but as a sufferer in the cause of government, when he was manager of the Theatre Royal in Ireland, when parties ran high in 1753. And it must also be allowed that he was a man of literature, and had considerably improved the arts of reading and speaking with distinctness and propriety.

* * * * *

Johnson complained that a man who disliked him repeated his sarcasm to [80 Mr. Sheridan, without telling him what followed, which was, that after a pause he added, "However, I am glad that Mr. Sheridan has a pension, for he is a very good man." Sheridan could never forgive this hasty contemptuous expression. It rankled in his mind; and though I informed him of all that Johnson said, and that he would be very glad to meet him amicably, he positively declined [90 repeated offers which I made, and once went off abruptly from a house where he and I were engaged to dine, because he was told that Dr. Johnson was to be there. I have no sympathetic feeling with such persevering resentment. It is painful when there is a breach between those who have lived together socially and cordially; and I wonder that there is not, in all such cases, a mutual [100 wish that it should be healed. I could perceive that Mr. Sheridan was by no means satisfied with Johnson's acknowledging him to be a good man. That could not soothe his injured vanity. I could not but smile, at the same time that I was offended, to observe Sheridan in the *Life of Swift*, which he afterwards published, attempting, in the writhings of

his resentment, to depreciate Johnson, [110 by characterising him as "A writer of gigantic fame, in these days of little men;" that very Johnson whom he once so highly admired and venerated.

This rupture with Sheridan deprived Johnson of one of his most agreeable resources for amusement in his lonely evenings; for Sheridan's well-informed, animated, and bustling mind never suffered conversation to stagnate; and [120 Mrs. Sheridan was a most agreeable companion to an intellectual man. She was sensible, ingenious, unassuming, yet communicative. I recollect, with satisfaction, many pleasing hours which I passed with her under the hospitable roof of her husband, who was to me a very kind friend. Her novel, entitled *Memoirs of Miss Sydney Biddulph*, contains an excellent moral, while it inculcates a [130 future state of retribution; and what it teaches is impressed upon the mind by a series of as deep distress as can affect humanity, in the amiable and pious heroine who goes to her grave unrelieved, but resigned, and full of hope of "heaven's mercy." Johnson paid her this high compliment upon it: "I know not, Madam, that you have a right, upon moral principles, to make your readers suffer so [140 much."

Mr. Thomas Davies the actor, who then kept a bookseller's shop in Russel- street, Covent-garden, told me that Johnson was very much his friend, and came frequently to his house, where he more than once invited me to meet him; but by some unlucky accident or other he was prevented from coming to us. [150

Mr. Thomas Davies was a man of good understanding and talents, with the advantage of a liberal education. Though somewhat pompous, he was an entertaining companion; and his literary performances have no inconsiderable share of merit. He was a friendly and very hospitable man. Both he and his wife (who has been celebrated for her beauty), though upon the stage for many years, [160 maintained an uniform decency of character; and Johnson esteemed them, and lived in as easy an intimacy with them

as with any family which he used to visit. Mr. Davies recollected several of Johnson's remarkable sayings, and was one of the best of the many imitators of his voice and manner, while relating them. He increased my impatience more and more to see the extraordinary man [170 whose works I highly valued, and whose conversation was reported to be so peculiarly excellent.

At last, on Monday the 16th of May, when I was sitting in Mr. Davies's back-parlor, after having drunk tea with him and Mrs. Davies, Johnson unexpectedly came into the shop; and Mr. Davies having perceived him through the glass-door in the room in which we were sitting, [180 advancing towards us,—he announced his awful approach to me, somewhat in the manner of an actor in the part of Horatio, when he addresses Hamlet on the appearance of his father's ghost: "Look, my Lord, it comes." I found that I had a very perfect idea of Johnson's figure, from the portrait of him painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds soon after he had published his Dictionary, in the [190 attitude of sitting in his easy chair in deep meditation; which was the first picture his friend did for him, which Sir Joshua very kindly presented to me, and from which an engraving has been made for this work. Mr. Davies mentioned my name, and respectfully introduced me to him. I was much agitated; and recollecting his prejudice against the Scotch, of which I had heard much, I [200 said to Davies, "Don't tell where I come from."—"From Scotland," cried Davies, roguishly. "Mr. Johnson (said I), I do indeed come from Scotland, but I cannot help it." I am willing to flatter myself that I meant this as light pleasantry to soothe and conciliate him, and not as an humiliating abasement at the expense of my country. But however that might be, this speech was somewhat un- [210 lucky; for with that quickness of wit for which he was so remarkable, he seized the expression "come from Scotland," which I used in the sense of being of that country; and, as if I had said that I had come away from it, or left it, retorted, "That, Sir, I find, is what a very great

many of your countrymen cannot help." This stroke stunned me a good deal; and when we had sat down, I felt myself [220 not a little embarrassed, and apprehensive of what might come next. He then addressed himself to Davies: "What do you think of Garrick? He has refused me an order for the play for Miss Williams, because he knows the house will be full, and that an order would be worth three shillings." Eager to take any opening to get into conversation with him, I ventured to say, "Oh, Sir, I cannot think [230 Mr. Garrick would grudge such a trifle to you." "Sir, (said he, with a stern look,) I have known David Garrick longer than you have done: and I know no right you have to talk to me on the subject." Perhaps I deserved this check; for it was rather presumptuous in me, an entire stranger, to express any doubt of the justice of his animadversion upon his old acquaintance and pupil. I now [240 felt myself much mortified, and began to think that the hope which I had long indulged of obtaining his acquaintance was blasted. And, in truth, had not my ardor been uncommonly strong, and my resolution uncommonly persevering, so rough a reception might have deterred me for ever from making any further attempts. Fortunately, however, I remained upon the field not wholly dis- [250 comfited; and was soon rewarded by hearing some of his conversation.

* * * * *

I was highly pleased with the extraordinary vigor of his conversation, and regretted that I was drawn away from it by an engagement at another place. I had, for a part of the evening, been left alone with him, and had ventured to make an observation now and then, which he received very civilly; so [260 that I was satisfied that though there was a roughness in his manner, there was no ill-nature in his disposition. Davies followed me to the door, and when I complained to him a little of the hard blows which the great man had given me, he kindly took upon him to console me by saying, "Don't be uneasy. I can see he likes you very well."

A few days afterwards I called on [270] Davies, and asked him if he thought I might take the liberty of waiting on Mr. Johnson at his chambers in the Temple. He said I certainly might, and that Mr. Johnson would take it as a compliment. So on Tuesday the 24th of May, after having been enlivened by the witty sallies of Messieurs Thornton, Wilkes, Churchill, and Lloyd, with whom I had passed the morning, I boldly repaired to Johnson. [280] His chambers were on the first floor of No. 1, Inner-Temple-lane, and I entered them with an impression given me by the Reverend Dr. Blair, of Edinburgh, who had been introduced to him not long before, and described his having "found the Giant in his den;" an expression which, when I came to be pretty well acquainted with Johnson, I repeated to him, and he was diverted at this picturesque account of himself. Dr. Blair had been presented to him by Dr. James Fordyce. At this time the controversy concerning the pieces published by Mr. James Macpherson, as translations of Ossian, was at its height. Johnson had all along denied their authenticity; and, what was still more provoking to their admirers, maintained that they had no merit. The subject having been introduced by Dr. Fordyce, Dr. Blair, relying on the internal evidence of their antiquity, asked Dr. Johnson whether he thought any man of a modern age could have written such poems? Johnson replied, "Yes, Sir; many men, many women, and many children." Johnson at this time, did not know that Dr. Blair had just published a *Dissertation*, not only defending their authenticity, but seriously ranking them with the poems of Homer and Virgil; and when he was afterwards informed of this circumstance, he expressed some displeasure at Dr. Fordyce's having suggested the topic, and said, "I am not sorry that they got thus much for their pains. Sir, it was like leading one to talk of a book, when the author is concealed behind the door."

He received me very courteously: [320] but, it must be confessed, that his apartment, and furniture, and morning dress, were sufficiently uncouth. His brown

suit of clothes looked very rusty; he had on a little old shrivelled unpowdered wig, which was too small for his head; his shirt-neck and knees of his breeches were loose; his black worsted stockings ill drawn up; and he had a pair of unbuckled shoes by way of slippers. But all these slovenly [330] particularities were forgotten the moment that he began to talk. Some gentlemen, whom I do not recollect, were sitting with him; and when they went away, I also rose; but he said to me, "Nay, don't go."—"Sir (said I), I am afraid that I intrude upon you. It is benevolent to allow me to sit and hear you." He seemed pleased with this compliment, which I sincerely paid him, and answered, [340] "Sir, I am obliged to any man who visits me."—I have preserved the following short minute of what passed this day:—

"Madness frequently discovers itself merely by unnecessary deviation from the usual modes of the world. My poor friend Smart showed the disturbance of his mind, by falling upon his knees, and saying his prayers in the street, or in [350] any other unusual place. Now although, rationally speaking, it is greater madness not to pray at all, than to pray as Smart did, I am afraid there are so many who do not pray, that their understanding is not called in question."

Concerning this unfortunate poet, Christopher Smart, who was confined in a mad-house, he had, at another time, the following conversation with Dr. Burney:— [360] BURNAY. "How does poor Smart do, Sir; is he likely to recover?" JOHNSON. "It seems as if his mind had ceased to struggle with the disease; for he grows fat upon it." BURNAY. "Perhaps, Sir, that may be from want of exercise." JOHNSON. "No, Sir; he has partly as much exercise as he used to have, for he digs in the garden. Indeed, before his confinement, he used for exercise to [370] walk to the alehouse; but he was *carried* back again. I did not think he ought to be shut up. His infirmities were not noxious to society. He insisted on people praying with him; and I'd as lief pray with Kit Smart as any one else. Another charge was, that he did not love clean

linen; and I have no passion for it." Johnson continued. "Mankind have a great aversion to intellectual labor; [380 but even supposing knowledge to be easily attainable, more people would be content to be ignorant than would take even a little trouble to acquire it.

"The morality of an action depends on the motive from which we act. If I fling half a crown to a beggar with intention to break his head, and he picks it up and buys victuals with it, the physical effect is good; but, with respect to me, the [390 action is very wrong. So, religious exercises, if not performed with an intention to please God, avail us nothing. As our Savior says of those who perform them from other motives, 'Verily they have their reward.'

"The Christian religion has very strong evidences. It, indeed, appears in some degree strange to reason; but in History we have undoubted facts, against [400 which, in reasoning *a priori*, we have more arguments than we have for them; but then, testimony has great weight, and casts the balance." . . .

Talking of Garrick, he said, "He is the first man in the world for sprightly conversation."

When I rose a second time, he again pressed me to stay, which I did.

He told me, that he generally went [410 abroad at four in the afternoon, and seldom came home till two in the morning. I took the liberty to ask if he did not think it wrong to live thus, and not make more use of his great talents. He owned it was a bad habit. On reviewing, at the distance of many years, my journal of this period, I wonder how, at my first visit, I ventured to talk to him so freely, and that he bore it with so much indul- [420 gence.

Before we parted, he was so good as to promise to favor me with his company one evening at my lodgings: and, as I took my leave, shook me cordially by the hand. It is almost needless to add, that I felt no little elation at having now so happily established an acquaintance of which I had been so long ambitious.

My readers will, I trust, excuse me [430 for being thus minutely circumstantial,

when it is considered that the acquaintance of Dr. Johnson was to me a most valuable acquisition, and laid the foundation of whatever instruction and entertainment they may receive from my collections concerning the great subject of the work which they are now perusing.

I did not visit him again till Monday, June 13, at which time I recollect [440 no part of his conversation, except that when I told him I had been to see Johnson ride upon three horses, he said, "Such a man, Sir, should be encouraged; for his performances show the extent of the human power in one instance, and thus tend to raise our opinion of the faculties of man. He shows what may be attained by persevering application; so that every man may hope, that by giving as [450 much application, although perhaps he may never ride three horses at a time, or dance upon a wire, yet he may be equally expert in whatever profession he has chosen to pursue."

He again shook me by the hand at parting, and asked me why I did not come oftener to him. Trusting that I was now in his good graces, I answered, that he had not given me much [460 encouragement, and reminded him of the check I had received from him at our first interview. "Poh, poh! (said he, with a complacent smile,) never mind these things. Come to me as often as you can. I shall be glad to see you."

I had learned that his place of frequent resort was the Mitre tavern in Fleet-street, where he loved to sit up late, [470 and I begged I might be allowed to pass an evening with him there soon, which he promised I should. A few days afterwards I met him near Temple-bar, about one o'clock in the morning, and asked him if he would then go to the Mitre. "Sir (said he), it is too late; they won't let us in. But I'll go with you another night with all my heart."

A revolution of some importance [480 in my plan of life had just taken place; for instead of procuring a commission in the foot-guards, which was my own inclination, I had, in compliance with my father's wishes, agreed to study the law,

and was soon to set out for Utrecht, to hear the lectures of an excellent Civilian in that University, and then to proceed on my travels. Though very desirous of obtaining Dr. Johnson's advice and [490 instructions on the mode of pursuing my studies, I was at this time so occupied, shall I call it? or so dissipated, by the amusements of London, that our next meeting was not till Saturday, June 25, when happening to dine at Clifton's eating-house, in Butcher-row, I was surprised to perceive Johnson come in and take his seat at another table. The mode of dining, or rather being fed, [500 at such houses in London, is well known to many to be particularly unsocial, as there is no Ordinary, or united company, but each person has his own mess, and is under no obligation to hold any intercourse with any one. A liberal and full-minded man, however, who loves to talk, will break through this churlish and unsocial restraint. Johnson and an Irish gentleman got into a dispute concern- [510 ing the cause of some part of mankind being black. "Why, Sir (said Johnson), it has been accounted for in three ways: either by supposing that they are the posterity of Ham, who was cursed; or that God at first created two kinds of men, one black and another white; or that by the heat of the sun the skin is scorched, and so acquires a sooty hue. This matter has been much canvassed among [520 naturalists, but has never been brought to any certain issue." What the Irishman said is totally obliterated from my mind; but I remember that he became very warm and intemperate in his expressions: upon which Johnson rose, and quietly walked away. When he had retired, his antagonist took his revenge, as he thought, by saying, "He has a most ungainly figure, and an affectation [530 of pomposity, unworthy of a man of genius."

Johnson had not observed that I was in the room. I followed him, however, and he agreed to meet me in the evening at the Mitre. I called on him, and we went thither at nine. We had a good supper, and port wine, of which he then sometimes drank a bottle. The orthodox

high-church sound of the MITRE,—[540 the figure and manner of the celebrated SAMUEL JOHNSON,—the extraordinary power and precision of his conversation, and the pride arising from finding myself admitted as his companion, produced a variety of sensations, and a pleasing elevation of mind beyond what I had ever before experienced. I find in my Journal the following minute of our conversation, which, though it will give but a very [550 faint notion of what passed, is, in some degree a valuable record; and it will be curious in this view, as showing how habitual to his mind were some opinions which appear in his works.

"Colley Cibber, Sir, was by no means a blockhead; but by arrogating to himself too much, he was in danger of losing that degree of estimation to which he was entitled. His friends gave out that [560 he *intended* his birth-day Odes should be bad: but that was not the case, Sir; for he kept them many months by him, and a few years before he died he showed me one of them, with great solicitude to render it as perfect as might be, and I made some corrections, to which he was not very willing to submit. I remember the following couplet in allusion to the King and himself: [570

'Perched on the eagle's soaring wing,
The lowly linnet loves to sing.'

Sir, he had heard something of the fabulous tale of the wren sitting upon the eagle's wing, and he had applied it to a linnet. Cibber's familiar style, however, was better than that which Whitehead has assumed. *Grand* nonsense is insupportable. Whitehead is but a little man to inscribe verses to players." [580

I did not presume to controvert this censure, which was tinctured with his prejudice against players, but I could not help thinking that a dramatic poet might with propriety pay a compliment to an eminent performer, as Whitehead has very happily done in his verses to Mr. Garrick.

"Sir, I do not think Gray a first-rate poet. He has not a bold imagination, [590 nor much command of words. The obscurity in which he has involved himself

will not persuade us that he is sublime. His *Elegy* in a church-yard has a happy selection of images, but I don't like what are called his great things. His ode which begins

'Ruin seize thee, ruthless King,
Confusion on thy banners wait!'

has been celebrated for its abruptness, [600 and plunging into the subject all at once. But such arts as these have no merit, unless when they are original. We admire them only once; and this abruptness has nothing new in it. We have had it often before. Nay, we have it in the old song of Johnny Armstrong:

'Is there ever a man in all Scotland,
From the highest estate to the lowest
degree, &c.'

And then, Sir, [610

'Yes, there is a man in Westmoreland,
And Johnny Armstrong they do him call.'

There, now, you plunge at once into the subject. You have no previous narration to lead you to it.—The two next lines in that Ode are, I think, very good:

'Though fanned by conquest's crimson
wing,
They mock the air with idle state.'

Here let it be observed, that although his opinion of Gray's poetry was [620 widely different from mine, and I believe from that of most men of taste, by whom it is with justice highly admired, there is certainly much absurdity in the clamor which has been raised, as if he had been culpably injurious to the merit of that bard, and had been actuated by envy. Alas! ye little short-sighted critics, could Johnson be envious of the talents of any of his contemporaries? That his opin- [630 ion on this subject was what in private and in public he uniformly expressed, regardless of what others might think, we may wonder, and perhaps regret; but it is shallow and unjust to charge him with expressing what he did not think.

Finding him in a placid humor, and wishing to avail myself of the opportunity which I fortunately had of consulting a sage, to hear whose wisdom, I con- [640

ceived, in the ardor of youthful imagination, that men filled with a noble enthusiasm for intellectual improvement would gladly have resorted from distant lands;—I opened my mind to him ingenuously, and gave him a little sketch of my life, to which he was pleased to listen with great attention.

I acknowledged, that though educated very strictly in the principles of re- [650 ligion, I had for some time been misled into a certain degree of infidelity; but that I was come now to a better way of thinking, and was fully satisfied of the truth of the Christian revelation, though I was not clear as to every point considered to be orthodox. Being at all times a curious examiner of the human mind, and pleased with an undisguised display of what had passed in it, [660 he called to me with warmth, "Give me your hand; I have taken a liking to you." He then began to descant upon the force of testimony, and the little we could know of final causes; so that the objections of, why was it so? or why was it not so? ought not to disturb us: adding, that he himself had at one period been guilty of a temporary neglect of religion, but that it was not the result of argu- [670 ment, but mere absence of thought.

After having given credit to reports of his bigotry, I was agreeably surprised when he expressed the following very liberal sentiment, which has the additional value of obviating an objection to our holy religion, founded upon the discordant tenets of Christians themselves: "For my part, Sir, I think all Christians, whether Papists or Protestants, agree [680 in the essential articles, and that their differences are trivial, and rather political than religious."

We talked of belief in ghosts. He said, "Sir, I make a distinction between what a man may experience by the mere strength of his imagination, and what imagination cannot possibly produce. Thus, suppose I should think that I saw a form, and heard a voice cry, 'John- [690 son, you are a very wicked fellow, and unless you repent you will certainly be punished;' my own unworthiness is so deeply impressed upon my mind, that I

might *imagine* I thus saw and heard, and therefore I should not believe that an external communication had been made to me. But if a form should appear, and a voice should tell me that a particular man had died at a particular place, [700 and a particular hour, a fact which I had no apprehension of, nor any means of knowing, and this fact, with all its circumstances, should afterwards be unquestionably proved, I should, in that case, be persuaded that I had supernatural intelligence imparted to me."

Here it is proper, once for all, to give a true and fair statement of Johnson's way of thinking upon the question, [710 whether departed spirits are ever permitted to appear in this world, or in any way to operate upon human life. He has been ignorantly misrepresented as weakly credulous upon that subject; and, therefore, though I feel an inclination to disdain and treat with silent contempt so foolish a notion concerning my illustrious friend, yet as I find it has gained ground, it is necessary to refute it. The real fact [720 then is, that Johnson had a very philosophical mind, and such a rational respect for testimony, as to make him submit his understanding to what was authentically proved, though he could not comprehend why it was so. Being thus disposed, he was willing to inquire into the truth of any relation of supernatural agency, a general belief of which has prevailed in all nations and ages. But [730 so far was he from being the dupe of implicit faith, that he examined the matter with a jealous attention, and no man was more ready to refute its falsehood when he had discovered it. Churchill in his poem entitled *The Ghost*, availed himself of the absurd credulity imputed to Johnson, and drew a caricature of him under the name of "POMPOSO," representing him as one of the believers of [740 the story of a Ghost in Cock-lane, which, in the year 1762, had gained very general credit in London. Many of my readers, I am convinced, are to this hour under an impression that Johnson was thus foolishly deceived. It will therefore surprise them a good deal when they are informed upon undoubted authority, that

Johnson was one of those by whom the imposture was detected. The story [750 had become so popular, that he thought it should be investigated; and in this research he was assisted by the Reverend Dr. Douglas, now Bishop of Salisbury, the great detector of impostures; who informs me, that after the gentlemen who went and examined into the evidence were satisfied of its falsity, Johnson wrote in their presence an account of it, which was published in the news- [760 papers and Gentleman's Magazine, and undeceived the world.

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As Dr. Oliver Goldsmith will frequently appear in this narrative, I shall endeavor to make my readers in some degree acquainted with his singular character. He was a native of Ireland, and a contemporary with Mr. Burke, at Trinity College, Dublin, but did not then give much promise of future celebrity. He, [770 however, observed to Mr. Malone, that "though he made no great figure in mathematics, which was a study in much repute there, he could turn an Ode of Horace into English better than any of them." He afterwards studied physic at Edinburgh, and upon the Continent: and I have been informed, was enabled to pursue his travels on foot, partly by demanding at Universities to enter the [780 lists as a disputant, by which, according to the custom of many of them, he was entitled to the premium of a crown, when luckily for him his challenge was not accepted; so that, as I once observed to Dr. Johnson, he *disputed* his passage through Europe. He then came to England, and was employed successively in the capacities of an usher to an academy, a corrector of the press, a reviewer, [790 and a writer for a newspaper. He had sagacity enough to cultivate assiduously the acquaintance of Johnson, and his faculties were gradually enlarged by the contemplation of such a model. To me and many others it appeared that he studiously copied the manner of Johnson, though, indeed, upon a smaller scale.

At this time I think he had pub- [800

lished nothing with his name, though it was pretty generally known that *one Dr. Goldsmith* was the author of "An Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe," and of "The Citizen of the World," a series of letters supposed to be written from London by a Chinese. No man had the art of displaying with more advantage as a writer, whatever literary acquisitions he made. "*Nihil [810 quod tetigit non ornavit.*" His mind resembled a fertile, but thin soil. There was a quick, but not a strong vegetation, of whatever chanced to be thrown upon it. No deep root could be struck. The oak of the forest did not grow there: but the elegant shrubbery and the fragrant parterre appeared in gay succession. It has been generally circulated and believed that he was a mere fool in conversation; but, in truth, this has been greatly exaggerated. He had, no doubt, a more than common share of that hurry of ideas which we often find in his countrymen, and which sometimes produces a laughable confusion in expressing them. He was very much what the French call *un étourdi*, and from vanity and an eager desire of being conspicuous wherever he was, he frequently talked carelessly [830 without knowledge of the subject, or even without thought. His person was short, his countenance coarse and vulgar, his deportment that of a scholar awkwardly affecting the easy gentleman. Those who were in any way distinguished, excited envy in him to so ridiculous an excess, that the instances of it are hardly credible. When accompanying two beautiful young ladies with their mother [840 on a tour in France, he was seriously angry that more attention was paid to them than to him; and once at the exhibition of the *Fantoccini* in London, when those who sat next him observed with what dexterity a puppet was made to toss a pike, he could not bear that it should have such praise, and exclaimed with some warmth, "Pshaw! I can do it better myself." [850

He, I am afraid, had no settled system of any sort, so that his conduct must not be strictly scrutinized; but his affections were social and generous, and when he

had money he gave it away very liberally. His desire of imaginary consequence predominated over his attention to truth. When he began to rise into notice, he said he had a brother who was Dean of Durham, a fiction so easily detected, [860 that it is wonderful how he should have been so inconsiderate as to hazard it. He boasted to me at this time of the power of his pen in commanding money, which I believe was true in a certain degree, though in the instance he gave he was by no means correct. He told me that he had sold a novel for four hundred pounds. This was his *Vicar of Wakefield*. But Johnson informed me, that he had [870 made the bargain for Goldsmith, and the price was sixty pounds. "And, Sir (said he), a sufficient price too, when it was sold; for then the fame of Goldsmith had not been elevated, as it afterwards was, by his *Traveller*; and the bookseller had such faint hopes of profit by his bargain, that he kept the manuscript by him a long time, and did not publish it till after the *Traveller* had appeared. Then, to [880 be sure, it was accidentally worth more money."

Mrs. Piozzi and Sir John Hawkins have strangely misstated the history of Goldsmith's situation and Johnson's friendly interference, when this novel was sold. I shall give it authentically from Johnson's own exact narration:

"I received one morning a message from poor Goldsmith that he was in [890 great distress, and as it was not in his power to come to me, begging that I would come to him as soon as possible. I sent him a guinea, and promised to come to him directly. I accordingly went as soon as I was dressed, and found that his landlady had arrested him for his rent, at which he was in a violent passion. I perceived that he had already changed my guinea, and had got a bottle of [900 Madeira and a glass before him. I put the cork into the bottle, desired he would be calm, and began to talk to him of the means by which he might be extricated. He then told me that he had a novel ready for the press, which he produced to me. I looked into it, and saw its merit; told the landlady I should soon return, and

having gone to a bookseller, sold it for sixty pounds. I brought Goldsmith [910 the money, and he discharged his rent, not without rating his landlady in a high tone for having used him so ill."

My next meeting with Johnson was on Friday the 1st of July, when he and I and Dr. Goldsmith supped at the Mitre. I was before this time pretty well acquainted with Goldsmith, who was one of the brightest ornaments of the Johnsonian school. Goldsmith's respectful at- [920 tachment to Johnson was then at its height; for his own literary reputation had not yet distinguished him so much as to excite a vain desire of competition with his great Master. He had increased my admiration of the goodness of Johnson's heart, by incidental remarks in the course of conversation, such as, when I mentioned Mr. Levet, whom he entertained under his roof, "He is poor [930 and honest, which is recommendation enough to Johnson;" and when I wondered that he was very kind to a man of whom I had heard a very bad character, "He is now become miserable, and that insures the protection of Johnson."

Goldsmith attempting this evening to maintain, I suppose from an affectation of paradox, "that knowledge was not desirable on its own account, for it [940 often was a source of unhappiness." JOHNSON. "Why, Sir, that knowledge may in some cases produce unhappiness, I allow. But, upon the whole, knowledge, *per se*, is certainly an object which every man would wish to attain, although, perhaps, he may not take the trouble necessary for attaining it."

Dr. John Campbell, the celebrated political and biographical writer, be- [950 ing mentioned, Johnson said, "Campbell is a man of much knowledge, and has a good share of imagination. His 'Hermippus Redivivus' is very entertaining, as an account of the Hermetic philosophy, and as furnishing a curious history of the extravagances of the human mind. If it were merely imaginary, it would be nothing at all. Campbell is not always rigidly careful of truth in his conversation; [960 but I do not believe there is any thing of this carelessness in his books. Campbell

is a good man, a pious man. I am afraid he has not been in the inside of a church for many years; but he never passes a church without pulling off his hat. This shows that he has good principles. I used to go pretty often to Campbell's on a Sunday evening till I began to consider that the shoals of Scotchmen who [970 flocked about him might probably say, when any thing of mine was well done, 'Ay, ay, he has learnt this of CAWMELL!'"

He talked very contemptuously of Churchill's poetry, observing, that "it had a temporary currency, only from its audacity of abuse, and being filled with living names, that it would sink into oblivion." I ventured to hint that he was not quite a fair judge, as Churchill [980 had attacked him violently. JOHNSON. "Nay, Sir, I am a very fair judge. He did not attack me violently till he found I did not like his poetry; and his attack on me shall not prevent me from continuing to say what I think of him, from an apprehension that it may be ascribed to resentment. No, Sir, I called the fellow a blockhead at first, and I will call him a blockhead still. However, I [990 will acknowledge that I have a better opinion of him now, than I once had; for he has shown more fertility than I expected. To be sure, he is a tree that cannot produce good fruit: he only bears crabs. But, Sir, a tree that produces a great many crabs is better than a tree which produces only a few."

In this depreciation of Churchill's poetry I could not agree with him. [1000 It is very true that the greatest part of it is upon the topics of the day, on which account, as it brought him great fame and profit at the time, it must proportionably slide out of the public attention as other occasional objects succeed. But Churchill had extraordinary vigor both of thought and expression. His portraits of the players will ever be valuable to the true lovers of the drama; and his strong [1010 caricatures of several eminent men of his age, will not be forgotten by the curious. Let me add, that there are in his works many passages which are of a general nature; and his *Prophecy of Famine* is a poem of no ordinary merit. It is, indeed,

falsely injurious to Scotland; but therefore may be allowed a greater share of invention.

Bonnell Thornton had just published a burlesque "Ode on St. Cecilia's day, adapted to the ancient British music, viz. the salt-box, the jews-harp, the marrow-bones and cleaver, the hum-strum or hurdy-gurdy, &c." Johnson praised its humor, and seemed much diverted with it. He repeated the following passage:

"In strains more exalted the salt-box
shall join,
And clattering and battering and clapping
combine;
With a rap and a tap while the hollow
side sounds,
Up and down leaps the flap, and with
rattling rebounds."

I mentioned the periodical paper called *The Connoisseur*. He said it wanted matter.—No doubt it had not the deep thinking of Johnson's writings. But surely it has just views of the surface of life, and a very sprightly manner. His opinion of *The World* was not much higher than of *The Connoisseur*.

Let me here apologize for the imperfect manner in which I am obliged to exhibit Johnson's conversation at this period. In the early part of my acquaintance with him, I was so wrapt in admiration of his extraordinary colloquial talents, and so little accustomed to his peculiar mode of expression, that I found it extremely difficult to recollect and record his conversation with its genuine vigor and vivacity. In progress of time, when my mind was, as it were, *strongly impregnated with the Johnsonian æther*, I could with much more facility and exactness, carry in my memory and commit to paper the exuberant variety of his wisdom and wit.

At this time Miss Williams, as she was then called, though she did not reside with him in the Temple under his roof, but had lodgings in Bolt-court, Fleet-street, had so much of his attention, that he every night drank tea with her before he went home, however late it might be, and she always sat up for him. This, it may be fairly conjectured,

was not alone a proof of his regard for *her*, but of his own unwillingness to go into solitude, before that unseasonable hour at which he had habituated himself to expect the oblivion of repose. Dr. Goldsmith, being a privileged man, went with him this night, strutting away, and calling to me with an air of superiority, like that of an esoteric over an exoteric disciple of a sage of antiquity, "I go to see Miss Williams." I confess, I then envied him this mighty privilege, of which he seemed so proud; but it was not long before I obtained the same mark of distinction.

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On Wednesday, July 6, he was engaged to sup with me at my lodgings in Downing-street, Westminster. But on the preceding night my landlord having behaved very rudely to me and some company who were with me, I had resolved not to remain another night in his house. I was exceedingly uneasy at the awkward appearance I supposed I should make to Johnson and the other gentleman whom I had invited, not being able to receive them at home, and being obliged to order supper at the Mitre. I went to Johnson in the morning, and talked of it as of a serious distress. He laughed, and said, "Consider, Sir, how insignificant this will appear a twelvemonth hence."—Were this consideration to be applied to most of the little vexatious incidents of life, by which our quiet is too often disturbed, it would prevent many painful sensations. I have tried it frequently with good effect. "There is nothing (continued he) in this mighty misfortune; nay, we shall be better at the Mitre." I told him that I had been at Sir John Fielding's office, complaining of my landlord, and had been informed, that though I had taken my lodgings for a year, I might, upon proof of his bad behavior, quit them when I pleased, without being under an obligation to pay rent for any longer time than while I possessed them. The fertility of Johnson's mind could show itself even upon so small a matter as this. "Why, Sir (said he), I suppose this must be the law, since you have been told so in

Bow-street. But, if your landlord could hold you to your bargain, and the lodgings should be yours for a year, you may [1120 certainly use them as you think fit. So, Sir, you may quarter two life-guardmen upon him; or you may send the greatest scoundrel you can find into your apartments; or you may say that you want to make some experiments in natural philosophy, and may burn a large quantity of assafoetida in his house."

I had as my guests this evening at the Mitre tavern, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Gold- [1130 smith, Mr. Thomas Davies, Mr. Eccles, an Irish gentleman, for whose agreeable company I was obliged to Mr. Davies, and the Reverend Mr. John Ogilvie, who was desirous of being in company with my illustrious friend, while I in my turn was proud to have the honor of showing one of my countrymen upon what easy terms Johnson permitted me to live with him. [1140

Goldsmith, as usual, endeavored, with too much eagerness, to *shine*, and disputed very warmly with Johnson against the well known maxim of the British constitution, "the King can do no wrong;" affirming, that "what was morally false could not be politically true; and as the King might, in the exercise of his regal power, command and cause the doing of what was wrong, it certainly might [1150 be said, in sense and in reason, that he could do wrong." JOHNSON. "Sir, you are to consider, that in our constitution, according to its true principles, the King is the head, he is supreme: he is above everything, and there is no power by which he can be tried. Therefore, it is, Sir, that we hold the King can do no wrong; that whatever may happen to be wrong in government may not be [1160 above our reach, by being ascribed to Majesty. Redress is always to be had against oppression, by punishing the immediate agents. The King, though he should command, cannot force a Judge to condemn a man unjustly; therefore it is the Judge whom we prosecute and punish. Political institutions are formed upon the consideration of what will most frequently tend to the good of the whole, al- [1170 though now and then exceptions may

occur. Thus it is better in general that a nation should have a supreme legislative power, although it may at times be abused. And then, Sir, there is this consideration, that *if the abuse be enormous, Nature will rise up, and claiming her original rights, overturn a corrupt political system.*" I mark this animated sentence with peculiar pleasure, as a noble instance [1180 of that truly dignified spirit of freedom which ever glowed in his heart, though he was charged with slavish tenets by superficial observers; because he was at all times indignant against that false patriotism, that pretended love of freedom, that unruly restlessness which is inconsistent with the stable authority of any good government.

This generous sentiment, which he [1190 uttered with great fervor, struck me exceedingly, and stirred my blood to that pitch of fancied resistance, the possibility of which I am glad to keep in mind, but to which I trust I never shall be forced.

"Great abilities (said he) are not requisite for an Historian; for in historical composition, all the greatest powers of the human mind are quiescent. He has facts ready to his hand; so there is no [1200 exercise of invention. Imagination is not required in any high degree; only about as much as is used in the lower kinds of poetry. Some penetration, accuracy, and coloring, will fit a man for the task, if he can give the application which is necessary."

"Bayle's Dictionary is a very useful work for those to consult who love the biographical part of literature, which [1210 is what I love most."

Talking of the eminent writers in Queen Anne's reign, he observed, "I think Dr. Arbuthnot the first man among them. He was the most universal genius, being an excellent physician, a man of deep learning, and a man of much humor. Mr. Addison was, to be sure, a great man; his learning was not profound; but his morality, his humor, and his elegance [1220 of writing, set him very high."

Mr. Ogilvie was unlucky enough to choose for the topic of his conversation the praises of his native country. He began with saying, that there was very

rich land around Edinburgh. Goldsmith, who had studied physic there, contradicted this, very untruly, with a sneering laugh. Disconcerted a little by this, Mr. Ogilvie then took a new ground, [1230 where, I suppose, he thought himself perfectly safe; for he observed, that Scotland had a great many noble wild prospects. JOHNSON. "I believe, Sir, you have a great many. Norway, too, has noble wild prospects; and Lapland is remarkable for prodigious noble wild prospects. But, Sir, let me tell you, the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees, is the high road that leads him [1240 to England!" This unexpected and pointed sally produced a roar of applause. After all, however, those who admire the rude grandeur of Nature, cannot deny it to Caledonia.

On Saturday, July 9, I found Johnson surrounded with a numerous levee, but have not preserved any part of his conversation. On the 14th we had another evening by ourselves at the Mitre. It [1250 happening to be a very rainy night, I made some common-place observations on the relaxation of nerves and depression of spirits which such weather occasioned; adding, however, that it was good for the vegetable creation. Johnson, who, as we have already seen, denied that the temperature of the air had any influence on the human frame, answered, with a smile of ridicule, "Why, yes, Sir, it is good [1260 for vegetables, and for the animals who eat those vegetables, and for the animals who eat those animals." This observation of his aptly enough introduced a good supper; and I soon forgot, in Johnson's company, the influence of a moist atmosphere.

Feeling myself now quite at ease as his companion, though I had all possible reverence for him, I expressed a regret that I could not be so easy with my father, though he was not much older than Johnson, and certainly however respectable had not more learning and greater abilities to depress me. I asked him the reason of this. JOHNSON. "Why, Sir, I am a man of the world. I live in the world, and I take, in some degree, the color of the world as it moves along. Your

father is a Judge in a remote part of [1280 the island, and all his notions are taken from the old world. Besides, Sir, there must always be a struggle between a father and son, while one aims at power and the other at independence." I said, I was afraid my father would force me to be a lawyer. JOHNSON. "Sir, you need not be afraid of his forcing you to be a laborious practising lawyer; that is not in his power. For as the proverb [1290 says, 'One man may lead a horse to the water, but twenty cannot make him drink.' He may be displeased that you are not what he wishes you to be; but that displeasure will not go far. If he insists only on your having as much law as is necessary for a man of property, and then endeavors to get you into Parliament, he is quite in the right."

He enlarged very convincingly [1300 upon the excellence of rhyme over blank verse in English poetry. I mentioned to him that Dr. Adam Smith, in his lectures upon composition, when I studied under him in the College of Glasgow, had maintained the same opinion strenuously, and I repeated some of his arguments. JOHNSON. "Sir, I was once in company with Smith, and we did not take to each other; but had I known that he loved [1310 rhyme as much as you tell me he does, I should have HUGGED him."

Talking of those who denied the truth of Christianity, he said, "It is always easy to be on the negative side. If a man were now to deny that there is salt upon the table, you could not reduce him to an absurdity. Come, let us try this a little further. I deny that Canada is taken; and I can support my denial by [1320 pretty good arguments. The French are a much more numerous people than we; and it is not likely that they would allow us to take it. 'But the ministry have assured us, in all the formality of the Gazette, that it is taken.'—Very true. But the ministry have put us to an enormous expense by the war in America, and it is their interest to persuade us that we have got something for our money.— [1330 'But the fact is confirmed by thousands of men who were at the taking of it.'—Ay, but these men have still more in-

terest in deceiving us. They don't want that you should think the French have beat them, but that they have beat the French. Now suppose you should go over and find that it really is taken, that would only satisfy yourself; for when you come home we will not believe you. [1340 We will say, you have been bribed.— Yet, Sir, notwithstanding all these plausible objections, we have no doubt that Canada is really ours. Such is the weight of common testimony. How much stronger are the evidences of the Christian religion?

"Idleness is a disease which must be combated; but I would not advise a rigid adherence to a particular plan of [1350 study. I myself have never persisted in any plan for two days together. A man ought to read just as inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good. A young man should read five hours in a day, and so may acquire a great deal of knowledge."

To a man of vigorous intellect and ardent curiosity like his own, reading without a regular plan may be bene- [1360 ficial; though even such a man must submit to it, if he would attain a full understanding of any of the sciences.

To such a degree of unrestrained frankness had he now accustomed me, that in the course of this evening I talked of the numerous reflections which had been thrown out against him on account of his having accepted a pension from his present Majesty. "Why, Sir (said [1370 he, with a hearty laugh), it is a mighty foolish noise that they make. I have accepted of a pension as a reward which has been thought due to my literary merit; and now that I have this pension, I am the same man in every respect that I have ever been; I retain the same principles. It is true, that I cannot now curse (smiling) the House of Hanover; nor would it be decent for me to drink [1380 King James's health in the wine that King George gives me money to pay for. But, Sir, I think that the pleasure of cursing the House of Hanover, and drinking King James's health, are amply overbalanced by three hundred pounds a year."

There was here, most certainly, an

affectation of more Jacobitism than he really had; and indeed an intention of admitting, for the moment, in a [1390 much greater extent than it really existed, the charge of disaffection imputed to him by the world, merely for the purpose of showing how dexterously he could repel an attack, even though he were placed in the most disadvantageous position; for I have heard him declare, that if holding up his right hand would have secured victory at Culloden to Prince Charles's army, he was not sure he [1400 would have held it up; so little confidence had he in the right claimed by the House of Stuart, and so fearful was he of the consequences of another revolution on the throne of Great Britain; and Mr. Topham Beauclerk assured me, he had heard him say this before he had his pension. At another time he said to Mr. Langton, "Nothing has ever offered, that has made it worth my while to con- [1410 sider the question fully." He, however, also said to the same gentleman, talking of King James the Second, "It was become impossible for him to reign any longer in this country." He no doubt had an early attachment to the House of Stuart; but his zeal had cooled as his reason strengthened. Indeed, I heard him once say, "that after the death of a violent Whig, with whom he used [1420 to contend with great eagerness, he felt his Toryism much abated." I suppose he meant Mr. Walmsley.

Yet there is no doubt that at earlier periods he was wont often to exercise both his pleasantry and ingenuity in talking Jacobitism. My much respected friend, Dr. Douglas, now Bishop of Salisbury, has favored me with the following admirable instance from his Lord- [1430 ship's own recollection. One day when dining at old Mr. Langton's, where Miss Roberts, his niece, was one of the company, Johnson, with his usual complacent attention to the fair sex, took her by the hand and said, "My dear, I hope you are a Jacobite." Old Mr. Langton, who, though a high and steady Tory, was attached to the present Royal Family, seemed offended, and asked Johnson, [1440 with great warmth, what he could mean

by putting such a question to his niece! "Why, Sir (said Johnson), I meant no offence to your niece, I meant her a great compliment. A Jacobite, Sir, believes in the divine right of Kings. He that believes in the divine right of Kings believes in a Divinity. A Jacobite believes in the divine right of Bishops. He that believes in the divine right of Bishops believes in the divine authority of the Christian religion. Therefore, Sir, a Jacobite is neither an Atheist nor a Deist. That cannot be said of a Whig; for *Whiggism is a negation of all principle.*"

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Next morning I found him alone, and have preserved the following fragments of his conversation. Of a gentleman who was mentioned, he said, "I have not met with any man for a long time [1460 who has given me such general displeasure. He is totally unfixed in his principles, and wants to puzzle other people." I said his principles had been poisoned by a noted infidel writer, but that he was, nevertheless, a benevolent good man. JOHNSON. "We can have no dependance upon that instinctive, that constitutional goodness, which is not founded upon principle. I grant you that such a [1470 man may be a very amiable member of society. I can conceive him placed in such a situation that he is not much tempted to deviate from what is right; and as every man prefers virtue, when there is not some strong incitement to transgress its precepts, I can conceive him doing nothing wrong. But if such a man stood in need of money, I should not like to trust him; and I should [1480 certainly not trust him with young ladies, for *there* there is always temptation. Hume, and other sceptical innovators, are vain men, and will gratify themselves at any expense. Truth will not afford sufficient food to their vanity; so they have betaken themselves to error. Truth, Sir, is a cow which will yield such people no more milk, and so they are gone to milk the bull. If I could have al- [1490 lowed myself to gratify my vanity at the expense of truth, what fame might I have acquired. Everything which Hume has

advanced against Christianity had passed through my mind long before he wrote. Always remember this, that after a system is well settled upon positive evidence, a few partial objections ought not to shake it. The human mind is so limited, that it cannot take in all the parts [1500 of a subject, so that there may be objections raised against any thing." . . .

I mentioned Hume's argument against the belief of miracles, that it is more probable that the witnesses to the truth of them are mistaken, or speak falsely, than that the miracles should be true. JOHNSON. "Why, Sir, the great difficulty of proving miracles should make us very cautious in believing them. But let [1510 us consider; although God has made Nature to operate by certain fixed laws, yet it is not unreasonable to think that he may suspend those laws, in order to establish a system highly advantageous to mankind. Now the Christian Religion is a most beneficial system, as it gives us light and certainty where we were before in darkness and doubt. The miracles which prove it are attested by men [1520 who had no interest in deceiving us; but who, on the contrary, were told that they should suffer persecution, and did actually lay down their lives in confirmation of the truth of the facts which they asserted. Indeed, for some centuries the heathens did not pretend to deny the miracles; but said they were performed by the aid of evil spirits. This is a circumstance of great weight. Then, [1530 Sir, when we take the proofs derived from prophecies which have been so exactly fulfilled, we have most satisfactory evidence. Supposing a miracle possible, as to which, in my opinion, there can be no doubt, we have as strong evidence for the miracles in support of Christianity, as the nature of the thing admits."

At night, Mr. Johnson and I supped in a private room at the Turk's Head [1540 coffee-house, in the Strand. "I encourage this house (said he), for the mistress of it is a good civil woman, and has not much business.

"Sir, I love the acquaintance of young people; because, in the first place, I don't like to think myself growing old. In

the next place, young acquaintances must last longest, if they do last; and then, Sir, young men have more virtue than [1550 old men; they have more generous sentiments in every respect. I love the young dogs of this age, they have more wit and humor and knowledge of life than we had; but then the dogs are not so good scholars. Sir, in my early years I read very hard. It is a sad reflection but a true one, that I knew almost as much at eighteen as I do now. My judgment, to be sure, was not so good; but I had all the facts. [1560 I remember very well, when I was at Oxford, an old gentleman said to me, 'Young man, ply your book diligently now, and acquire a stock of knowledge; for when years come upon you, you will find that poring upon books will be but an irksome task.'

This account of his reading, given by himself in plain words, sufficiently confirms what I have already ad- [1570 vanced upon the disputed question as to his application. It reconciles any seeming inconsistency in his way of talking upon it at different times; and shows that idleness and reading hard were with him relative terms, the import of which, as used by him, must be gathered from a comparison with what scholars of different degrees of ardor and assiduity have been known to do. And let it be re- [1580 membered, that he was now talking spontaneously, and expressing his genuine sentiments; whereas at other times he might be induced, from his spirit of contradiction, or more properly from his love of argumentative contest, to speak lightly of his own application to study. It is pleasing to consider that the old gentleman's gloomy prophecy as to the irksomeness of books to men of an ad- [1590 vanced age, which is too often fulfilled, was so far from being verified in Johnson, that his ardor for literature never failed, and his last writings had more ease and vivacity than any of his earlier productions.

He mentioned to me now, for the first time, that he had been distressed by melancholy, and for that reason had been obliged to fly from study and medita- [1600 tion, to the dissipating variety of life.

Against melancholy he recommended constant occupation of mind, a great deal of exercise, moderation in eating and drinking, and especially to shun drinking at night. He said melancholy people were apt to fly to intemperance for relief, but that it sunk them much deeper in misery. He observed, that laboring men who work hard, and live sparingly, are [1610 seldom or never troubled with low spirits.

He again insisted on the duty of maintaining subordination of rank. "Sir, I would no more deprive a nobleman of his respect, than of his money. I consider myself as acting a part in the great system of society, and I do to others as I would have them to do to me. I would behave to a nobleman as I should expect he would behave to me, were I a [1620 nobleman and he Sam. Johnson. Sir, there is one Mrs. Macaulay in this town, a great republican. One day when I was at her house, I put on a very grave countenance, and said to her, 'Madam, I am now become a convert to your way of thinking. I am convinced that all mankind are upon an equal footing; and to give you an unquestionable proof, Madam, that I am in earnest, here [1630 is a very sensible, civil, well-behaved fellow citizen, your footman; I desire that he may be allowed to sit down and dine with us.' I thus, Sir, showed her the absurdity of the levelling doctrine. She has never liked me since. Sir, your levellers wish to level *down* as far as themselves; but they cannot bear levelling *up* to themselves. They would all have some people under them; why not [1640 then have some people above them?" I mentioned a certain author who disgusted me by his forwardness, and by showing no deference to noblemen into whose company he was admitted. JOHNSON. "Suppose a shoemaker should claim an equality with him, as he does with a Lord: how he would stare. 'Why, Sir, do you stare? (says the shoemaker,) I do great service to society. 'Tis [1650 true, I am paid for doing it; but so are you, Sir: and I am sorry to say it, better paid than I am, for doing something not so necessary. For mankind could do better without your books, than without

my shoes.' Thus, Sir, there would be a perpetual struggle for precedence, were there no fixed invariable rules for the distinction of rank, which creates no jealousy, as it is allowed to be accidental." [1660]

* * * * *

I again begged his advice as to my method of study at Utrecht. "Come, (said he) let us make a day of it. Let us go down to Greenwich and dine, and talk of it there." The following Saturday was fixed for this excursion.

As we walked along the Strand to-night, arm in arm, a woman of the town accosted us, in the usual enticing manner. "No, no, my girl (said Johnson), it [1670 won't do." He, however, did not treat her with harshness; and we talked of the wretched life of such women, and agreed, that much more misery than happiness, upon the whole, is produced by illicit commerce between the sexes.

On Saturday, July 30, Dr. Johnson and I took a sculler at the Temple-stairs, and set out for Greenwich. I asked him if he really thought a knowledge of [1680 the Greek and Latin languages an essential requisite to a good education. JOHNSON. "Most certainly, Sir; for those who know them have a very great advantage over those who do not. Nay, Sir, it is wonderful what a difference learning makes upon people even in the common intercourse of life, which does not appear to be much connected with it." "And yet (said I), people go through the [1690 world very well, and carry on the business of life to good advantage, without learning." JOHNSON. "Why, Sir, that may be true in cases where learning cannot possibly be of any use; for instance, this boy rows us as well without learning, as if he could sing the song of Orpheus to the Argonauts, who were the first sailors." He then called to the boy, "What would you give, my lad, to know about [1700 the Argonauts?" "Sir (said the boy), I would give what I have." Johnson was much pleased with his answer, and we gave him a double fare. Dr. Johnson then turning to me, "Sir (said he), a desire of knowledge is the natural feeling of mankind; and every human being,

whose mind is not debauched, will be willing to give all that he has, to get knowledge." [1710]

We landed at the Old Swan, and walked to Billingsgate, where we took oars and moved smoothly along the silver Thames. It was a very fine day. We were entertained with the immense number and variety of ships that were lying at anchor, and with the beautiful country on each side of the river.

I talked of preaching, and of the great success which those called Metho- [1720 dists have. JOHNSON. "Sir, it is owing to their expressing themselves in a plain and familiar manner, which is the only way to do good to the common people, and which clergymen of genius and learning ought to do from a principle of duty, when it is suited to their congregations; a practice, for which they will be praised by men of sense. To insist against drunkenness as a crime, because it de- [1730 bases reason, the noblest faculty of man, would be of no service to the common people; but to tell them that they may die in a fit of drunkenness, and show them how dreadful that would be, cannot fail to make a deep impression. Sir, when your Scotch clergy give up their homely manner, religion will soon decay in that country." Let this observation, as Johnson meant it, be ever remembered. [1740]

I was much pleased to find myself with Johnson at Greenwich, which he celebrates in his "London" as a favorite scene. I had the poem in my pocket, and read the lines aloud with enthusiasm:

"On Thames's banks in silent thought we stood,
Where Greenwich smiles upon the silver flood:
Pleased with the seat which gave ELIZA birth,
We kneel, and kiss the consecrated earth."

He remarked that the structure of [1750 Greenwich hospital was too magnificent for a place of charity, and that its parts were too much detached, to make one great whole.

Buchanan, he said, was a very fine poet; and observed, that he was the first

who complimented a lady, by ascribing to her the different perfections of the heathen goddesses; but that Johnston improved upon this, by making his [1760] lady, at the same time, free from their defects.

He dwelt upon Buchanan's elegant verses to Mary, Queen of Scots, *Nympha Caledoniæ*, &c. and spoke with enthusiasm of the beauty of Latin verse. "All the modern languages (said he) cannot furnish so melodious a line as

*Formosam resonare doces Amarillida
silvas.* [1770]

Afterwards he entered upon the business of the day, which was to give me his advice as to a course of study. And here I am to mention with much regret, that my record of what he said is miserably scanty. I recollect with admiration an animating blaze of eloquence, which roused every intellectual power in me to the highest pitch, but must have dazzled me so much, [1780] that my memory could not preserve the substance of his discourse; for the note which I find of it is no more than this:—"He ran over the grand scale of human knowledge; advised me to select some particular branch to excel in, but to acquire a little of every kind." The defect of my minutes will be fully supplied by a long letter upon the subject, which he favored me with, after I had been [1790] some time at Utrecht, and which my readers will have the pleasure to peruse in its proper place.

We walked in the evening in Greenwich Park. He asked me I suppose, by way of trying my disposition, "Is not this very fine?" Having no exquisite relish of the beauties of Nature, and being more delighted with "the busy hum of men," I answered, "Yes, Sir; but not equal [1800] to Fleet-street." JOHNSON. "You are right, Sir."

I am aware that many of my readers may censure my want of taste. Let me, however, shelter myself under the authority of a very fashionable Baronet in the brilliant world, who, on his attention being called to the fragrance of a May evening in the country, observed, "This

may be very well; but for my part, [1810] I prefer the smell of a flambeau at the play-house."

We stayed so long at Greenwich, that our sail up the river, in our return to London, was by no means so pleasant as in the morning; for the night air was so cold that it made me shiver. I was the more sensible of it from having sat up all the night before recollecting and writing in my Journal what I thought [1820] worthy of preservation; an exertion, which, during the first part of my acquaintance with Johnson, I frequently made. I remember having sat up four nights in one week, without being much incommoded in the day time.

Johnson, whose robust frame was not in the least affected by the cold, scolded me, as if my shivering had been a paltry effeminacy, saying, "Why do you [1830] shiver?" Sir William Scott, of the Commons, told me, that when he complained of a head-ache in the post-chaise, as they were travelling together to Scotland, Johnson treated him in the same manner: "At your age, Sir, I had no head-ache." It is not easy to make allowance for sensations in others, which we ourselves have not at the time. We must all have experienced how very differently we [1840] are affected by the complaints of our neighbors, when we are well and when we are ill. In full health, we can scarcely believe that they suffer much; so faint is the image of pain upon our imagination: when softened by sickness, we readily sympathize with the sufferings of others.

We concluded the day at the Turk's Head coffee-house very socially. [1850] He was pleased to listen to a particular account which I gave him of my family, and of its hereditary estate, as to the extent and population of which he asked questions, and made calculations; recommending, at the same time, a liberal kindness to the tenantry, as people over whom the proprietor was placed by Providence. He took delight in hearing my description of the romantic seat [1860] of my ancestors. "I must be there, Sir (said he), and we will live in the old castle; and if there is not a room in it

remaining, we will build one." I was highly flattered, but could scarcely indulge a hope that Auchinleck would indeed be honored by his presence, and celebrated by a description, as it afterwards was, in his *Journey to the Western Islands*.

After we had again talked of my [1870 setting out for Holland, he said, "I must see thee out of England; I will accompany you to Harwich." I could not find words to express what I felt upon this unexpected and very great mark of his affectionate regard.

Next day, Sunday, July 31, I told him I had been that morning at a meeting of the people called Quakers, where I had heard a woman preach. JOHNSON. [1880 "Sir, a woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all."

On Tuesday, August 2 (the day of my departure from London having been fixed for the 5th), Dr. Johnson did me the honor to pass a part of the morning with me at my chambers. He said, that "he always felt an inclination to do nothing." I observed, that it was strange to think that the most indolent man in Britain had written the most laborious work, THE ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

I mentioned an imprudent publication, by a certain friend of his, at an early period of life, and asked him if he thought it would hurt him. JOHNSON. "No, Sir; not much. It may, perhaps, be mentioned at an election." [1900

I had now made good my title to be a privileged man, and was carried by him in the evening to drink tea with Miss Williams, whom, though under the misfortune of having lost her sight, I found to be agreeable in conversation; for she had a variety of literature, and expressed herself well; but her peculiar value was the intimacy in which she had long lived with Johnson, by which [1910 she was well acquainted with his habits, and knew how to lead him on to talk.

After tea he carried me to what he called his walk, which was a long narrow paved court in the neighborhood, overshadowed by some trees. There we sauntered a considerable time; and I complained to

him that my love of London and of his company was such, that I shrunk almost from the thought of going away even [1920 to travel, which is generally so much desired by young men. He roused me by manly and spirited conversation. He advised me, when settled in any place abroad, to study with an eagerness after knowledge, and to apply to Greek an hour every day; and when I was moving about, to read diligently the great book of mankind.

On Wednesday, August 3, we had [1930 our last social evening at the Turk's Head coffee-house, before my setting out for foreign parts. I had the misfortune, before we parted, to irritate him unintentionally. I mentioned to him how common it was in the world to tell absurd stories of him, and to ascribe to him very strange sayings. JOHNSON. "What do they make me say, Sir?" BOSWELL. "Why, Sir, as an instance very strange [1940 indeed (laughing heartily as I spoke), David Hume told me, you said that you would stand before a battery of cannon to restore the Convocation to its full powers." —Little did I apprehend that he had actually said this: but I was soon convinced of my error; for, with a determined look, he thundered out, "And would I not, Sir? Shall the Presbyterian *Kirk* of Scotland have its General Assembly, [1950 and the Church of England be denied its Convocation?" He was walking up and down the room, while I told him the anecdote; but when he uttered this explosion of high-church zeal, he had come close to my chair, and his eye flashed with indignation. I bowed to the storm, and diverted the force of it, by leading him to expatiate on the influence which religion derived from maintaining [1960 the church with great external respectability. . . .

On Friday, August 5, we set out early in the morning in the Harwich stage-coach. A fat elderly gentlewoman, and a young Dutchman, seemed the most inclined among us to conversation. At the inn where we dined, the gentlewoman said that she had done her best to educate her children; and, particularly, that [1970 she had never suffered them to be a

moment idle. JOHNSON. "I wish, Madam, you would educate me too; for I have been an idle fellow all my life." "I am sure, Sir (said she), you have not been idle." JOHNSON. "Nay, Madam, it is very true; and that gentleman there (pointing to me), has been idle. He was idle at Edinburgh. His father sent him to Glasgow, where he continued [1980 to be idle. He then came to London, where he has been very idle; and now he is going to Utrecht, where he will be as idle as ever." I asked him privately how he could expose me so. JOHNSON. "Poh, poh! (said he) they knew nothing about you, and will think of it no more." In the afternoon the gentlewoman talked violently against the Roman Catholics, and of the horrors of the Inquisition. [1990 To the utter astonishment of all the passengers but myself, who knew that he could talk upon any side of a question, he defended the Inquisition, and maintained, that "false doctrine should be checked on its first appearance; that the civil power should unite with the church in punishing those who dare to attack the established religion, and that such only were punished by the Inquisition." [2000 He had in his pocket *Pomponius Mela de Situ Orbis*, in which he read occasionally, and seemed very intent upon ancient geography. Though by no means niggardly, his attention to what was generally right was so minute, that having observed at one of the stages that I ostentatiously gave a shilling to the coachman, when the custom was for each passenger to give only six-pence, he took me aside [2010 and scolded me, saying that what I had done would make the coachman dissatisfied with all the rest of the passengers who gave him no more than his due. This was a just reprimand; for in whatever way a man may indulge his generosity or his vanity in spending his money, for the sake of others he ought not to raise the price of any article for which there is a constant demand. [2020

He talked of Mr. Blacklock's poetry, so far as it was descriptive of visible objects; and observed, that "as its author had the misfortune to be blind, we may be absolutely sure that

such passages are combinations of what he has remembered of the works of other writers who could see. That foolish fellow, Spence, has labored to explain philosophically how Blacklock may [2030 have done, by means of his own faculties, what it is impossible he should do. The solution, as I have given it, is plain. Suppose, I know a man to be so lame that he is absolutely incapable to move himself, and I find him in a different room from that in which I left him; shall I puzzle myself with idle conjectures, that, perhaps, his nerves have by some unknown change all at once become [2040 effective? No, Sir, it is clear how he got into a different room: he was *carried*."

Having stopped a night at Colchester, Johnson talked of that town with veneration, for having stood a siege for Charles the First. The Dutchman alone now remained with us. He spoke English tolerably well; and thinking to recommend himself to us by expatiating on the superiority of the criminal jurispru- [2050 dence of this country over that of Holland, he inveighed against the barbarity of putting an accused person to the torture, in order to force a confession. But Johnson was as ready for this, as for the Inquisition. "Why, Sir, you do not, I find, understand the law of your own country. To torture in Holland is considered as a favor to an accused person; for no man is put to the torture [2060 there, unless there is as much evidence against him as would amount to conviction in England. An accused person among you, therefore, has one chance more to escape punishment, than those who are tried among us."

At supper this night he talked of good eating with uncommon satisfaction. "Some people (said he), have a foolish way of not minding, or pretending [2070 not to mind, what they eat. For my part, I mind my belly very studiously, and very carefully; for I look upon it, that he who does not mind his belly, will hardly mind any thing else." He now appeared to me *Jean Bull philosophe*, and he was for the moment, not only serious, but vehement. Yet I have heard him, upon other occasions, talk with great contempt

of people who were anxious to grat- [2080
ify their palates; and the 206th number
of his *Rambler* is a masterly essay against
gulosity. His practice, indeed, I must
acknowledge, may be considered as cast-
ing the balance of his different opinions
upon this subject; for I never knew any
man who relished good eating more than
he did. When at table, he was totally
absorbed in the business of the moment;
his looks seemed rivetted to his [2090
plate; nor would he, unless when in very
high company, say one word, or even pay
the least attention to what was said by
others, till he had satisfied his appetite:
which was so fierce, and indulged with
such intenseness, that while in the act of
eating, the veins of his forehead swelled,
and generally a strong perspiration was
visible. To those whose sensations were
delicate, this could not but be disgust- [2100
ing; and it was doubtless not very suitable
to the character of a philosopher, who
should be distinguished by self-command.
But it must be owned, that Johnson,
though he could be rigidly *abstemious*,
was not a *temperate* man either in eating
or drinking. He could refrain, but he
could not use moderately. He told me,
that he had fasted two days without in-
convenience, and that he had never [2110
been hungry but once. They who beheld
with wonder how much he eat upon all
occasions, when his dinner was to his
taste, could not easily conceive what he
must have meant by hunger; and not only
was he remarkable for the extraordinary
quantity which he eat, but he was, or
affected to be, a man of very nice discern-
ment in the science of cookery. He used
to descant critically on the dishes [2120
which had been at table where he had dined
or supped, and to recollect very minutely
what he had liked. I remember when he
was in Scotland, his praising "*Gordon's
palates*," (a dish of palates at the Honorable
Alexander Gordon's) with a warmth
of expression which might have done
honor to more important subjects. "As
for Maclaurin's imitation of a *made dish*,
it was a wretched attempt." He [2130
about the same time was so much dis-
pleased with the performances of a noble-
man's French cook, that he exclaimed with

vehemence, "I'd throw such a rascal into
the river;" and he then proceeded to
alarm a lady at whose house he was to
sup, by the following manifesto of his
skill: "I, Madam, who live at a variety of
good tables, am a much better judge of
cookery, than any person who has a [2140
very tolerable cook, but lives much at
home; for his palate is gradually adapted
to the taste of his cook: whereas, Madam,
in trying by a wider range, I can more
exquisitely judge." When invited to
dine, even with an intimate friend, he
was not pleased if something better than
a plain dinner was not prepared for him.
I have heard him say on such an occasion,
"This was a good dinner enough, [2150
to be sure; but it was not a dinner to *ask*
a man to." On the other hand, he was
wont to express, with great glee, his satis-
faction when he had been entertained
quite to his mind. One day when he had
dined with his neighbor and landlord, in
Bolt-court, Mr. Allen, the printer, whose
old housekeeper had studied his taste in
every thing, he pronounced this eulogy:
"Sir, we could not have had a [2160
better dinner, had there been a *Synod of
Cooks*."

While we were left by ourselves, after
the Dutchman had gone to bed, Dr.
Johnson talked of that studied behavior
which many have recommended and
practised. He disapproved of it; and
said, "I never considered whether I
should be a grave man, or a merry man,
but just let inclination, for the time, [2170
have its course."

He flattered me with some hopes that
he would, in the course of the following
summer, come over to Holland, and
accompany me in a tour through the
Netherlands.

I teased him with fanciful apprehen-
sions of unhappiness. A moth having
fluttered round the candle, and burnt it-
self, he laid hold of this little incident [2180
to admonish me; saying, with a sly look,
and in a solemn but a quiet tone, "That
creature was its own tormentor, and I
believe its name was BOSWELL."

Next day we got to Harwich, to dinner;
and my passage in the packet-boat to
Helvoetsluys being secured, and my bag-

gage put on board, we dined at our inn by ourselves. I happened to say, it would be terrible if he should not [2190 find a speedy opportunity of returning to London, and be confined in so dull a place. JOHNSON. "Don't, Sir, accustom yourself to use big words for little matters. It would *not* be terrible, though I were to be detained some time here." The practice of using words of disproportionate magnitude, is, no doubt, too frequent everywhere; but, I think, most remarkable among the French, of [2200 which, all who have travelled in France must have been struck with innumerable instances.

We went and looked at the church, and having gone into it, and walked up to the altar, Johnson, whose piety was constant and fervent, sent me to my knees, saying, "Now that you are going to leave your native country, recommend yourself to the protection of your CREATOR [2210 and REDEEMER."

After we came out of the church, we stood talking for some time together of Bishop Berkeley's ingenious sophistry to prove the non-existence of matter, and that every thing in the universe is merely ideal. I observed, that though we are satisfied his doctrine is not true, it is impossible to refute it. I never shall forget the alacrity with which John- [2220 son answered, striking his foot with mighty force against a large stone, till he rebounded from it,—"I refute it *thus*." This was a stout exemplification of the *first truths* of *Pere Bouffier*, or the *original principles* of Reid and of Beattie; without admitting which, we can no more argue in metaphysics, than we can argue in mathematics without axioms. To me it is not conceivable how Berkeley can [2230 be answered by pure reasoning; but I know that the nice and difficult task was to have been undertaken by one of the most luminous minds of the present age, had not politics "turned him from calm philosophy aside." What an admirable display of subtilty, united with brilliance, might his contending with Berkeley have afforded us! How must we, when we reflect on the loss of such an intellectual feast, regret [2240 that he should be characterised as the man,

"Who, born for the universe, narrowed his mind,
And to party gave up what was meant for mankind"?

My revered friend walked down with me to the beach, where we embraced and parted with tenderness, and engaged to correspond by letters. I said, "I hope, Sir, you will not forget me in my absence." JOHNSON. "Nay, Sir, it is more likely you should forget me, than that I [2250 should forget you." As the vessel put out to sea, I kept my eyes upon him for a considerable time, while he remained rolling his majestic frame in his usual manner; and at last I perceived him walk back into the town, and he disappeared.

EDMUND BURKE (1729-1797)

TO THE ELECTORS OF BRISTOL,

ON HIS BEING DECLARED BY THE SHERIFFS,
DULY ELECTED ONE OF THE REPRESENT-
ATIVES IN PARLIAMENT FOR THAT CITY,

On Thursday the Third of November, 1774

GENTLEMEN: I cannot avoid sympathizing strongly with the feelings of the gentleman who has received the same honor that you have conferred on me. If he, who was bred and passed his whole life amongst you; if he, who through the easy gradations of acquaintance, friendship, and esteem, has obtained the honor, which seems of itself, naturally and almost insensibly, to meet with those, [10 who by the even tenor of pleasing manners and social virtues, slide into the love and confidence of their fellow-citizens;—if he cannot speak but with great emotion on this subject, surrounded as he is on all sides with his old friends; you will have the goodness to excuse me, if my real, unaffected embarrassment prevents me from expressing my gratitude to you as I ought.

I was brought hither under the dis- [20 advantage of being unknown, even by sight, to any of you. No previous canvass was made for me. I was put in nomination after the poll was opened. I did not

appear until it was far advanced. If, under all these accumulated disadvantages, your good opinion has carried me to this happy point of success, you will pardon me, if I can only say to you collectively, as I said to you individually, [30 simply, and plainly, I thank you—I am obliged to you—I am not insensible of your kindness.

This is all that I am able to say for the inestimable favor you have conferred upon me. But I cannot be satisfied, without saying a little more in defence of the right you have to confer such a favor. The person that appeared here as counsel for the candidate who so long and so [40 earnestly solicited your votes, thinks proper to deny, that a very great part of you have any votes to give. He fixes a standard period of time in his own imagination, not what the law defines, but merely what the convenience of his client suggests, by which he would cut off, at one stroke, all those freedoms which are the dearest privileges of your corporation; which the common law authorizes; [50 which your magistrates are compelled to grant; which come duly authenticated into this court; and are saved in the clearest words, and with the most religious care and tenderness, in that very act of parliament which was made to regulate the elections by freemen, and to prevent all possible abuses in making them.

I do not intend to argue the matter here. My learned counsel has sup- [60 ported your cause with his usual ability; the worthy sheriffs have acted with their usual equity, and I have no doubt that the same equity which dictates the return, will guide the final determination. I had the honor, in conjunction with many far wiser men, to contribute a very small assistance, but, however, some assistance, to the forming the judicature which is to try such questions. It [70 would be unnatural in me to doubt the justice of that court, in the trial of my own cause, to which I have been so active to give jurisdiction over every other.

I assure the worthy freemen, and this corporation, that, if the gentleman perseveres in the intentions which his present warmth dictates to him, I will attend their

cause with diligence, and I hope with effect. For, if I know anything of my- [80 self, it is not my own interest in it, but my full conviction, that induces me to tell you—I *think there is not a shadow of doubt in the case.*

I do not imagine that you find me rash in declaring myself, or very forward in troubling you. From the beginning to the end of the election, I have kept silence in all matters of discussion. I have never asked a question of a voter [90 on the other side, or supported a doubtful vote on my own. I respected the abilities of my managers; I relied on the candor of the court. I think the worthy sheriffs will bear me witness, that I have never once made an attempt to impose upon their reason, to surprise their justice, or to ruffle their temper. I stood on the hustings (except when I gave my thanks to those who favored me with their [100 votes) less like a candidate, than an unconcerned spectator of a public proceeding. But here the face of things is altered. Here is an attempt for a general *massacre* of suffrages; an attempt, by a promiscuous carnage of *friends* and *foes*, to exterminate above two thousand votes, including *seven hundred polled for the gentleman himself, who now complains*, and who would destroy the friends [110 whom he has obtained, only because he cannot obtain as many of them as he wishes.

How he will be permitted, in another place, to stultify and disable himself, and to plead against his own acts, is another question. The law will decide it. I shall only speak of it as it concerns the propriety of public conduct in this city. I do not pretend to lay down rules of [120 decorum for other gentlemen. They are best judges of the mode of proceeding that will recommend them to the favor of their fellow-citizens. But I confess I should look rather awkward, if I had been the *very first to produce the new copies of freedom*, if I had persisted in producing them to the last; if I had ransacked, with the most unrelenting industry and the most penetrating research, the remotest [130 corners of the kingdom to discover them; if I were then, all at once, to turn short,

and declare that I had been sporting all this while with the right of election; and that I had been drawing out a poll, upon no sort of rational grounds, which disturbed the peace of my fellow-citizens for a month together—I really, for my part, should appear awkward under such circumstances. [140]

It would be still more awkward in me, if I were gravely to look the sheriffs in the face, and to tell them they were not to determine my cause on my own principles; not to make the return upon those votes upon which I had rested my election. Such would be my appearance to the court and magistrates.

But how should I appear to the *voters* themselves? If I had gone round to [150] the citizens entitled to freedom, and squeezed them by the hand—"Sir, I humbly beg your vote—I shall be eternally thankful—may I hope for the honor of your support?—Well!—come—we shall see you at the council-house."—If I were then to deliver them to my managers, pack them into tallies, vote them off in court, and when I heard from the bar—"Such a one only! and such a one for [160] ever!—he's my man!"—"Thank you, good Sir—Hah! my worthy friend! thank you kindly—that's an honest fellow—how is your good family?"—Whilst these words were hardly out of my mouth, if I should have wheeled round at once, and told them—"Get you gone, you pack of worthless fellows! you have no votes—you are usurpers! you are intruders on the rights of real freemen! I will have [170] nothing to do with you! you ought never to have been produced at this election, and the sheriffs ought not to have admitted you to poll."

Gentlemen, I should make a strange figure if my conduct had been of this sort. I am not so old an acquaintance of yours as the worthy gentleman. Indeed I could not have ventured on such kind of freedoms with you. But I am bound, and [180] I will endeavor, to have justice done to the rights of freemen; even though I should, at the same time, be obliged to vindicate the former part of my antagonist's conduct against his own present inclinations.

I owe myself, in all things, to *all* the freemen of this city. My particular friends have a demand on me that I should not deceive their expectations. [190] Never was cause or man supported with more constancy, more activity, more spirit. I have been supported with a zeal indeed and heartiness in my friends, which (if their object had been at all proportioned to their endeavors) could never be sufficiently commended. They supported me upon the most liberal principles. They wished that the members for Bristol should be chosen for the [200] city, and for their country at large, and not for themselves.

So far they are not disappointed. If I possess nothing else, I am sure I possess the temper that is fit for your service. I know nothing of Bristol, but by the favors I have received, and the virtues I have seen exerted in it.

I shall ever retain, what I now feel, the most perfect and grateful attach- [210] ment to my friends—and I have no enmities, no resentment. I never can consider fidelity to engagements, and constancy in friendships, but with the highest approbation; even when those noble qualities are employed against my own pretensions. The gentleman, who is not so fortunate as I have been in this contest, enjoys, in this respect, a consolation full of honor both to himself and to [220] his friends. They have certainly left nothing undone for his service.

As for the trifling petulance which the rage of party stirs up in little minds, though it should show itself even in this court, it has not made the slightest impression on me. The highest flight of such clamorous birds is winged in an inferior reign of the air. We hear them, and we look upon them, just as you, [230] gentlemen, when you enjoy the serene air on your lofty rocks, look down upon the gulls that skim the mud of your river, when it is exhausted of its tide.

I am sorry I cannot conclude without saying a word on a topic touched upon by my worthy colleague. I wish that topic had been passed by at a time when I have so little leisure to discuss it. But since he has thought proper to throw [240]

it out, I owe you a clear explanation of my poor sentiments on that subject.

He tells you that "the topic of instructions has occasioned much altercation and uneasiness in this city;" and he expresses himself (if I understand him rightly) in favor of the coercive authority of such instructions.

Certainly, gentlemen, it ought to be the happiness and glory of a representa- [250
tive to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes ought to have great weight with him; their opinion, high respect; their business, unremitted attention. It is his duty to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions, to theirs; and above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interest to his own. [260
But his unbiassed opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man, or to any set of men living. These he does not derive from your pleasure; no, nor from the law and the constitution. They are a trust from Providence, for the abuse of which he is deeply answerable. Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; [270
and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion.

My worthy colleague says, his will ought to be subservient to yours. If that be all, the thing is innocent. If government were a matter of will upon any side, yours, without question, ought to be superior. But government and legislation are matters of reason and judgment, and not of inclination; and what sort of [280
reason is that, in which the determination precedes the discussion; in which one set of men deliberate, and another decide; and where those who form the conclusion are perhaps three hundred miles distant from those who hear the arguments?

To deliver an opinion is the right of all men; that of constituents is a weighty and respectable opinion, which a [290
representative ought always to rejoice to hear; and which he ought always most seriously to consider. But *authoritative* instructions; *mandates* issued, which the

member is bound blindly and implicitly to obey, to vote, and to argue for, though contrary to the clearest conviction of his judgment and conscience—these are things utterly unknown to the laws of this land, and which arise from a [300
fundamental mistake of the whole order and tenor of our constitution.

Parliament is not a *congress* of ambassadors from different and hostile interests; which interests each must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates; but parliament is a *deliberative* assembly of *one* nation, with *one* interest, that of the whole; where, not local purposes, not [310
local prejudices, ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole. You choose a member indeed; but when you have chosen him, he is not member of Bristol, but he is a member of *parliament*. If the local constituent should have an interest, or should form an hasty opinion, evidently opposite to the real good of the rest of the community, the member for that [320
place ought to be as far as any other from any endeavor to give it effect. I beg pardon for saying so much on this subject. I have been unwillingly drawn into it; but I shall ever use a respectful frankness of communication with you. Your faithful friend, your devoted servant, I shall be to the end of my life; a flatterer you do not wish for. On this point of instructions, however, I think [330
it scarcely possible we ever can have any sort of difference. Perhaps I may give you too much, rather than too little, trouble.

From the first hour I was encouraged to court your favor, to this happy day of obtaining it, I have never promised you anything but humble and persevering endeavors to do my duty. The weight of that duty, I confess, makes me [340
tremble; and whoever well considers what it is, of all things in the world, will fly from what has the least likeness to a positive and precipitate engagement. To be a good member of parliament is, let me tell you, no easy task; especially at this time, when there is so strong a disposition to run into the perilous extremes of servile

compliance or wild popularity. To unite circumspection with vigor, is abso- [350
lutely necessary; but it is extremely difficult. We are now members for a rich commercial *city*; this city, however, is but a part of a rich commercial *nation*, the interests of which are various, multi-form, and intricate. We are members for that great nation, which, however, is itself but part of a great *empire*, extended by our virtue and our fortune to the farthest limits of the east and of the [360 west. All these wide-spread interests must be considered; must be compared; must be reconciled, if possible. We are members for a *free* country; and surely we all know, that the machine of a free constitution is no simple thing; but as intricate and as delicate as it is valuable. We are members in a great and ancient *monarchy*; and we must preserve religiously the true legal rights of the [370 sovereign, which form the key-stone that binds together the noble and well-constructed arch of our empire and our constitution. A constitution made up of balanced powers must ever be a critical thing. As such I mean to touch that part of it which comes within my reach. I know my inability, and I wish for support from every quarter. In particular I shall aim at the friendship, and shall culti- [380 vate the best correspondence, of the worthy colleague you have given me.

I trouble you no further than once more to thank you all; you, gentlemen, for your favors; the candidates, for their temperate and polite behavior; and the sheriffs, for a conduct which may give a model for all who are in public stations.

From THE IMPEACHMENT OF WARREN HASTINGS

THE CHARGE

I, therefore, charge Mr. Hastings with having destroyed, for private purposes, the whole system of government by the six provincial councils, which he had no right to destroy.

I charge him with having delegated to others that power which the act of parlia-

ment had directed him to preserve unalienably in himself.

I charge him with having formed a [10 committee to be mere instruments and tools, at the enormous expenses of £62,000 per annum.

I charge him with having appointed a person their *dewan*, to whom these Englishmen were to be subservient tools; whose name, to his own knowledge, was by the general voice of India, by the general recorded voice of the Company, by recorded official transactions, by [20 everything that can make a man known, abhorred and detested, stamped with infamy; and with giving him the whole power which he had thus separated from the council-general and from the provincial councils.

I charge him with taking bribes of Gunga Govin Sing.

I charge him with not having done that bribe service which fidelity even in [30 iniquity requires at the hands of the worst of men.

I charge him with having robbed those people of whom he took the bribes.

I charge him with having fraudulently alienated the fortunes of widows.

I charge him with having, without right, title, or purchase, taken the lands of orphans, and given them to wicked persons under him. [40

I charge him with having removed the natural guardians of a minor *Rajah*, and with having given that trust to a stranger, Debi Sing, whose wickedness was known to himself and all the world; and by whom the *Rajah*, his family, and dependants, were cruelly oppressed.

I charge him with having committed to the management of Debi Sing three great provinces; and thereby, with [50 having wasted the country, ruined the landed interest, cruelly harassed the peasants, burnt their houses, seized their crops, tortured and degraded their persons, and destroyed the honor of the whole female race of that country.

In the name of the Commons of England, I charge all this villany upon Warren Hastings, in this last moment of my application to you. [60

My lords, what is it that we want here

to a great act of national justice? Do we want a cause, my lords? You have the cause of oppressed princes, of undone women of the first rank, of desolated provinces, and of wasted kingdoms.

Do you want a criminal, my lords? When was there so much iniquity ever laid to the charge of any one?—No, my lords, you must not look to punish any [70 other such delinquent from India.—Warren Hastings has not left substance enough in India to nourish such another delinquent.

My lords, is it a prosecutor you want?—You have before you the Commons of Great Britain as prosecutors; and, I believe, my lords, that the sun in his beneficent progress round the world does not behold a more glorious sight than [80 that of men, separated from a remote people by the material bounds and barriers of nature, united by the bond of a social and moral community;—all the Commons of England resenting, as their own, the indignities and cruelties that are offered to all the people of India.

Do we want a tribunal? My lords, no example of antiquity, nothing in the modern world, nothing in the range of [90 human imagination, can supply us with a tribunal like this. My lords, here we see virtually in the mind's eye that sacred majesty of the Crown, under whose authority you sit, and whose power you exercise. We see in that invisible authority, what we all feel in reality and life, the beneficent powers and protecting justice of his Majesty. We have here the heir-apparent to the Crown, such as [100 the fond wishes of the people of England wish an heir-apparent of the Crown to be. We have here all the branches of the royal family in a situation between majesty and subjection, between the sovereign and the subject,—offering a pledge in that situation for the support of the rights of the Crown and the liberties of the people, both which extremities they touch. My lords, we have a great [110 hereditary peerage here; those who have their own honor, the honor of their ancestors, and of their posterity, to guard; and who will justify, as they have always justified, that provision in the constitu-

tion by which justice is made an hereditary office. My lords, we have here a new nobility, who have risen and exalted themselves by various merits, by great military services, which have ex- [120 tended the fame of this country from the rising to the setting sun: we have those who by various civil merits and various civil talents have been exalted to a situation which they well deserve, and in which they will justify the favor of their sovereign, and the good opinion of their fellow-subjects, and make them rejoice to see those virtuous characters, that were the other day upon a [130 level with them, now exalted above them in rank, but feeling with them in sympathy what they felt in common with them before. We have persons exalted from the practice of the law, from the place in which they administered high though subordinate justice, to a seat here, to enlighten with their knowledge and to strengthen with their votes those principles which have distinguished the [140 courts in which they have presided.

My lords, you have here also the lights of our religion; you have the bishops of England. My lords, you have that true image of the primitive church in its ancient form, in its ancient ordinances, purified from the superstitions and the vices which a long succession of ages will bring upon the best institutions. You have the representatives of that re- [150 ligious which says that their God is love, that the very vital spirit of their institution is charity; a religion which so much hates oppression, that when the God whom we adore appeared in human form, He did not appear in a form of greatness and majesty, but in sympathy with the lowest of the people,—and thereby made it a firm and ruling principle, that their welfare was the object of all [160 government; since the person, who was the Master of Nature, chose to appear Himself in a subordinate situation. These are the considerations which influence them, which animate them, and will animate them, against all oppression; knowing, that He who is called first among them, and first among us all, both of the flock that is fed and of those who

feed it, made Himself "the servant [170 of all."

My lords, these are the securities which we have in all the constituent parts of the body of this House. We know them, we reckon, we rest upon them, and commit safely the interests of India and of humanity into your hands. Therefore, it is with confidence that, ordered by the Commons,

I impeach Warren Hastings, Esq., [180 of high crimes and misdemeanors.

I impeach him in the name of the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, whose parliamentary trust he has betrayed.

I impeach him in the name of all the Commons of Great Britain, whose national character he has dishonored.

I impeach him in the name of the people in India, whose laws, rights, and [190 liberties he has subverted, whose properties he has destroyed, whose country he has laid waste and desolate.

I impeach him in the name and by virtue of those eternal laws of justice which he has violated.

I impeach him in the name of human nature itself, which he has cruelly outraged, injured, and oppressed in both sexes, in every age, rank, situation, [200 and condition of life.

THE PERORATION

My lords, I have done; the part of the Commons is concluded. With a trembling solicitude we consign this product of our long, long labors to your charge. Take it!—take it! It is a sacred trust. Never before was a cause of such magnitude submitted to any human tribunal.

My lords, at this awful close, in the name of the Commons, and surrounded by them, I attest the retiring, I attest [10 the advancing generations, between which, as a link in the great chain of eternal order, we stand.—We call this nation, we call the world to witness, that the Commons have shrunk from no labor; that we have been guilty of no prevarication; that we have made no compromise with crime; that we have not feared any odium whatsoever, in the long warfare which

we have carried on with the crimes— [20 with the vices—with the exorbitant wealth—with the enormous and overpowering influence of Eastern corruption. This war, my lords, we have waged for twenty-two years, and the conflict has been fought at your lordships' bar for the last seven years. My lords, twenty-two years is a great space in the scale of the life of man; it is no inconsiderable space in the history of a great nation. [30 A business which has so long occupied the councils and the tribunals of Great Britain, cannot possibly be huddled over in the course of vulgar, trite, and transitory events. Nothing but some of those great revolutions that break the traditional chain of human memory, and alter the very face of nature itself, can possibly obscure it. My lords, we are all elevated to a degree of importance [40 by it; the meanest of us will, by means of it, more or less become the concern of posterity, if we are yet to hope for such a thing in the present state of the world as a recording, retrospective, civilized posterity; but this is in the hands of the great Disposer of events: it is not ours to settle how it shall be. My lords, your House yet stands; it stands as a great edifice; but let me say, that it stands [50 in the midst of ruins; in the midst of the ruins that have been made by the greatest moral earthquake that ever convulsed and shattered this globe of ours. My lords, it has pleased Providence to place us in such a state, that we appear every moment to be upon the verge of some great mutations. There is one thing, and one thing only, which defies all mutation; that which existed before the [60 world, and will survive the fabric of the world itself; I mean justice; that justice, which, emanating from the Divinity, has a place in the breast of every one of us, given us for our guide with regard to ourselves and with regard to others, and which will stand after this globe is burned to ashes, our advocate or our accuser before the great Judge, when He comes to call upon us for the tenor of a well- [70 spent life.

My lords, the Commons will share in every fate with your lordships; there is

nothing sinister which can happen to you, in which we shall not be involved; and if it should so happen that we shall be subjected to some of those frightful changes which we have seen—if it should happen that your lordships, stripped of all the decorous distinctions of human [80 society, should, by hands at once base and cruel, be led to those scaffolds and machines of murder, upon which great kings and glorious queens have shed their blood, amidst the prelates, amidst the nobles, amidst the magistrates who supported their thrones, may you in those moments feel that consolation which I am persuaded they felt in the critical moments of their dreadful agony! [90

My lords, there is a consolation, and a great consolation it is, which often happens to oppressed virtue and fallen dignity; it often happens that the very oppressors and persecutors themselves are forced to bear testimony in its favor. I do not like to go for instances a great way back into antiquity. I know very well that length of time operates so as to give an air of the fabulous to remote events, [100 which lessens the interest and weakens the application of examples. I wish to come nearer to the present time. Your lordships know and have heard, for which of us has not known and heard, of the parliament of Paris? The parliament of Paris had an origin very, very similar to that of the great court before which I stand; the parliament of Paris continued to have a great resemblance [110 to it in its constitution, even to its fall; the parliament of Paris, my lords, WAS; it is gone! It has passed away; it has vanished like a dream! It fell, pierced by the sword of the Comte de Mirabeau. And yet I will say that that man, at the time of his inflicting the death wound of that parliament, produced at once the shortest and the grandest funeral oration that ever was or could be made upon [120 the departure of a great court of magistracy. Though he had himself smarted under its lash, as every one knows who knows his history (and he was elevated to dreadful notoriety in history), yet when he pronounced the death sentence upon that parliament, and inflicted the mortal

wound, he declared that his motives for doing it were merely political, and that their hands were as pure as those of [130 justice itself, which they administered—a great and glorious exit, my lords, of a great and glorious body! And never was a eulogy pronounced upon a body more deserved. They were persons in nobility of rank, in amplitude of fortune, in weight of authority, in depth of learning, inferior to few of those that hear me. My lords, it was but the other day that they submitted their necks to the axe; but [140 their honor was unwounded. Their enemies, the persons who sentenced them to death, were lawyers, full of subtlety; they were enemies, full of malice; yet lawyers full of subtlety, and enemies full of malice, as they were, they did not dare to reproach them with having supported the wealthy, the great, and powerful, and of having oppressed the weak and feeble, in any of their judgments, or of having [150 perverted justice in any one instance whatever, through favor, through interest, or cabal.

My lords, if you must fall, may you so fall! But if you stand, and stand I trust you will, together with the fortune of this ancient monarchy—together with the ancient laws and liberties of this great and illustrious kingdom, may you stand as unimpeached in honor as in power; [160 may you stand not as a substitute for virtue, but as an ornament of virtue, as a security for virtue; may you stand long, and long stand the terror of tyrants; may you stand the refuge of afflicted nations; may you stand a sacred temple, for the perpetual residence of an inviolable justice.

From REFLECTIONS ON THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE

THE RIGHTS OF MEN

Far am I from denying in theory, full as far is my heart from withholding in practice (if I were of power to give or to withhold), the *real* rights of men. In denying their false claims of right, I do not mean to injure those which are real, and are such as their pretended rights would totally destroy. If civil society

be made for the advantage of man, all the advantages for which it is made [10 become his right. It is an institution of beneficence; and law itself is only beneficence acting by a rule. Men have a right to live by that rule; they have a right to do justice, as between their fellows, whether their fellows are in public function or in ordinary occupation. They have a right to the fruits of their industry; and to the means of making their industry fruitful. They have a right to the [20 acquisitions of their parents; to the nourishment and improvement of their offspring; to instruction in life, and to consolation in death. Whatever each man can separately do, without trespassing upon others, he has a right to do for himself; and he has a right to a fair portion of all which society, with all its combinations of skill and force, can do in his favor. In this partnership all men [30 have equal rights; but not to equal things. He that has but five shillings in the partnership, has as good a right to it, as he that has five hundred pounds has to his larger proportion. But he has not a right to an equal dividend in the product of the joint stock; and as to the share of power, authority, and direction which each individual ought to have in the management of the state, that I must [40 deny to be amongst the direct original rights of man in civil society; for I have in my contemplation the civil social man, and no other. It is a thing to be settled by convention.

If civil society be the offspring of convention, that convention must be its law. That convention must limit and modify all the descriptions of constitution which are formed under it. Every sort of [50 legislative, judicial, or executory power are its creatures. They can have no being in any other state of things; and how can any man claim under the conventions of civil society, rights which do not so much as suppose its existence? rights which are absolutely repugnant to it? One of the first motives to civil society, and which becomes one of its fundamental rules, is, *that no man should* [60 *be judge in his own cause*. By this each person has at once divested himself of

the first fundamental right of unconvenanted man, that is, to judge for himself, and to assert his own cause. He abdicates all right to be his own governor. He inclusively, in a great measure, abandons the right of self-defence, the first law of nature. Men cannot enjoy the rights of an uncivil and of a civil state together. [70 That he may obtain justice, he gives up his right of determining what it is in points the most essential to him. That he may secure some liberty, he makes a surrender in trust of the whole of it.

Government is not made in virtue of natural rights, which may and do exist in total independence of it; and exist in much greater clearness, and in a much greater degree of abstract perfection; [80 but their abstract perfection is their practical defect. By having a right to everything they want everything. Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human *wants*. Men have a right that these wants should be provided for by this wisdom. Among these wants is to be reckoned the want, out of civil society, of a sufficient restraint upon their passions. Society requires not [90 only that the passions of individuals should be subjected, but that even in the mass and body, as well as in the individuals, the inclinations of men should frequently be thwarted, their will controlled, and their passions brought into subjection. This can only be done *by a power out of themselves*; and not, in the exercise of its function, subject to that will and to those passions which it is [100 its office to bridle and subdue. In this sense the restraints on men, as well as their liberties, are to be reckoned amongst their rights. But as the liberties and the restrictions vary with times and circumstances, and admit of infinite modifications, they cannot be settled upon any abstract rule; and nothing is so foolish as to discuss them upon that principle.

The moment you abate anything [110 from the full rights of men, each to govern himself, and suffer any artificial, positive limitation upon those rights, from that moment the whole organization of government becomes a consideration of convenience. This it is which makes the

constitution of a state, and the due distribution of its powers, a matter of the most delicate and complicated skill. It requires a deep knowledge of human [120 nature and human necessities, and of the things which facilitate or obstruct the various ends, which are to be pursued by the mechanism of civil institutions. The state is to have recruits to its strength, and remedies to its distempers. What is the use of discussing a man's abstract right to food or medicine? The question is upon the method of procuring and administering them. In that delibera- [130 tion I shall always advise to call in the aid of the farmer and the physician, rather than the professor of metaphysics.

The science of constructing a commonwealth, or renovating it, or reforming it, is, like every other experimental science, not to be taught *a priori*. Nor is it a short experience that can instruct us in that practical science; because the real effects of moral causes are not always [140 immediate; but that which in the first instance is prejudicial may be excellent in its remoter operation; and its excellence may arise even from the ill effects it produces in the beginning. The reverse also happens: and very plausible schemes, with very pleasing commencements, have often shameful and lamentable conclusions. In states there are often some obscure and almost latent causes, [150 things which appear at first view of little moment, on which a very great part of its prosperity or adversity may most essentially depend. The science of government being therefore so practical in itself, and intended for such practical purposes, a matter which requires experience, and even more experience than any person can gain in his whole life, however sagacious and observing he may be, it is [160 with infinite caution that any man ought to venture upon pulling down an edifice, which has answered in any tolerable degree for ages the common purposes of society, or on building it up again, without having models and patterns of approved utility before his eyes.

These metaphysic rights entering into common life, like rays of light which pierce into a dense medium, are, by [170

the laws of nature, refracted from their straight line. Indeed in the gross and complicated mass of human passions and concerns, the primitive rights of men undergo such a variety of refractions and reflections, that it becomes absurd to talk of them as if they continued in the simplicity of their original direction. The nature of man is intricate; the objects of society are of the greatest [180 possible complexity: and therefore no simple disposition or direction of power can be suitable either to man's nature, or to the quality of his affairs. When I hear the simplicity of contrivance aimed at and boasted of in any new political constitutions, I am at no loss to decide that the artificers are grossly ignorant of their trade, or totally negligent of their duty. The simple governments are [190 fundamentally defective, to say no worse of them. If you were to contemplate society in but one point of view, all the simple modes of polity are infinitely captivating. In effect each would answer its single end much more perfectly than the more complex is able to attain all its complex purposes. But it is better that the whole should be imperfectly and anomalously answered, than that, [200 while some parts are provided for with great exactness, others might be totally neglected, or perhaps materially injured, by the over-care of a favorite member.

The pretended rights of these theorists are all extremes: and in proportion as they are metaphysically true, they are morally and politically false. The rights of men are in a sort of *middle*, incapable of [210 definition, but not impossible to be discerned. The rights of men in governments are their advantages; and these are often in balances between differences of good; in compromises sometimes between good and evil, and sometimes between evil and evil. Political reason is a computing principle; adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing, morally and not metaphysically, or mathematic- [220 ally, true moral denominations.

By these theorists the right of the people is almost always sophistically confounded with their power. The body of

the community, whenever it can come to act, can meet with no effectual resistance; but till power and right are the same, the whole body of them has no right inconsistent with virtue, and the first of all virtues, prudence. Men have no [230 right to what is not reasonable, and to what is not for their benefit; for though a pleasant writer said, *Liceat perire poetis*, when one of them, in cold blood, is said to have leaped into the flames of a volcanic revolution, *Ardentem frigidus Ætnam insiluit*, I consider such a frolic rather as an unjustifiable poetic license, than as one of the franchises of Parnassus; and whether he were poet, or divine, or [240 politician, that chose to exercise this kind of right, I think that more wise, because more charitable, thoughts would urge me rather to save the man, than to preserve his brazen slippers as the monuments of his folly.

THE PRECURSORS OF ROMANTICISM

ALLAN RAMSAY (1686-1758)

PEGGY

My Peggy is a young thing,
Just entered in her teens,
Fair as the day, and sweet as May,
Fair as the day, and always gay;
My Peggy is a young thing,
And I'm not very auld,
Yet well I like to meet her at
The wauking¹ of the fauld.

My Peggy speaks sae sweetly
Whene'er we meet alane,
I wish nae mair to lay my care,
I wish nae mair of a' that's rare;
My Peggy speaks sae sweetly,
To a' the lave² I'm cauld,
But she gars³ a' my spirits glow
At wauking of the fauld. 15

My Peggy smiles sae kindly
Whene'er I whisper love,
That I look down on a' the town,
That I look down upon a crown; 20

¹ watching.

² rest.

³ makes.

My Peggy smiles sae kindly,
It makes me blyth and bauld,
And naething gives me sic⁴ delight
As wauking of the fauld.

My Peggy sings sae softly 25
When on my pipe I play,
By a' the rest it is confest,
By a' the rest, that she sings best;
My Peggy sings sae softly,
And in her sangs are tauld 30
With innocence the wale⁵ of sense,
At wauking of the fauld.

THE LASS WITH A LUMP OF LAND

Gi'e me a lass with a lump of land,
And we for life shall gang thegither;
Though daft⁶ or wise I'll never demand,
Or black or fair it maks na whether.
I'm aff with wit, and beauty will fade, 5
And blood alane is no worth a shilling;
But she that's rich, her market's made,
For ilka⁷ charm about her is killing.

Gi'e me a lass with a lump of land,
And in my bosom I'll hug my treasure; 10
Gin I had anes⁸ her gear⁹ in my hand,
Should love turn dowf,¹⁰ it will find pleasure.
Laugh on wha likes, but there's my hand,
I hate with poortith,¹¹ though bonny, to meddle;
Unless they bring cash or a lump of land, 15
They'se never get me to dance to their fiddle.

There's meikle good love in bands and bags,
And siller and gowd's¹² a sweet complexion;
But beauty, and wit, and virtue in rags,
Have tint¹³ the art of gaining affection. 20
Love tips his arrows with woods and parks,
And castles, and riggs,¹⁴ and moors, and meadows;
And naithing can catch our modern sparks,
But well-tochered¹⁵ lasses or jointured widows.

⁴ such. ⁶ choice. ⁸ foolish. ⁷ every. ⁹ once.
⁵ property. ¹⁰ mournful. ¹¹ poverty. ¹² gold. ¹³ lost.
¹⁴ ridge, a measure of land. ¹⁵ well-dowered.

JAMES THOMSON (1700-1748)

THE SEASONS

From WINTER

Through the hushed air the whitening
 shower descends,
 At first thin-wavering, till at last the
 flakes 230
 Fall broad, and wide, and fast, dimming
 the day
 With a continual flow. The cherished
 fields
 Put on their winter robe of purest white:
 'T is brightness all, save where the new
 snow melts
 Along the mazy current. Low the woods
 Bow their hoar head; and ere the languid
 sun 236
 Faint from the west emits his evening
 ray,
 Earth's universal face, deep-hid and chill,
 Is one wide dazzling waste, that buries
 wide
 The works of man. Drooping, the labor-
 er-ox 240
 Stands covered o'er with snow, and then
 demands
 The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of
 heaven,
 Tamed by the cruel season, crowd around
 The winnowing store, and claim the little
 boon
 Which Providence assigns them. One
 alone, 245
 The redbreast, sacred to the household
 gods,
 Wisely regardful of the embroiling sky,
 In joyless fields and thorny thickets
 leaves
 His shivering mates, and pays to trusted
 man
 His annual visit. Half-afraid, he first 250
 Against the window beats; then, brisk,
 alights
 On the warm hearth; then hopping o'er
 the floor,
 Eyes all the smiling family askance,
 And pecks, and starts, and wonders where
 he is;
 Till more familiar grown, the table-
 crumbs 255

Attract his slender feet. The foodless
 wilds
 Pour forth their brown inhabitants. The
 hare,
 Though timorous of heart, and hard beset
 By death in various forms, dark snares and
 dogs,
 And more un pitying men, the garden
 seeks, 260
 Urged on by fearless want. The bleating
 kind
 Eye the bleak heaven, and next, the glis-
 tening earth,
 With looks of dumb despair; then, sad dis-
 persed,
 Dig for the withered herb through heaps
 of snow.

* * * * *

As thus the snows arise, and foul and
 fierce 276
 All winter drives along the darkened air,
 In his own loose-revolving fields the swain
 Disastered stands; sees other hills ascend,
 Of unknown joyless brow, and other
 scenes, 280
 Of horrid prospect, shag the trackless
 plain;
 Nor finds the river nor the forest, hid
 Beneath the formless wild; but wanders on
 From hill to dale, still more and more
 astray,
 Impatient flouncing through the drifted
 heaps, 285
 Stung with the thoughts of home; the
 thoughts of home
 Rush on his nerves, and call their vigor
 forth
 In many a vain attempt. How sinks his
 soul!
 What black despair, what horror, fills his
 heart!
 When for the dusky spot which fancy
 feigned, 290
 His tufted cottage rising through the snow,
 He meets the roughness of the middle
 waste,
 Far from the track and blessed abode of
 man;
 While round him night resistless closes
 fast,
 And every tempest howling o'er his
 head, 295
 Renders the savage wilderness more wild.

Then throng the busy shapes into his
mind,
Of covered pits, unfathomably deep,
A dire descent! beyond the power of frost;
Of faithless bogs; of precipices huge, 300
Smoothed up with snow; and what is land
unknown,
What water of the still unfrozen spring,
In the loose marsh or solitary lake,
Where the fresh fountain from the bottom
boils.
These check his fearful steps, and down he
sinks 305
Beneath the shelter of the shapeless drift,
Thinking o'er all the bitterness of death,
Mixed with the tender anguish nature
shoots
Through the wrung bosom of the dying
man,
His wife, his children, and his friends, un-
seen. 310
In vain for him the officious wife prepares
The fire fair blazing, and the vestment
warm;
In vain his little children, peeping out
Into the mingling storm, demand their sire
With tears of artless innocence. Alas! 315
Nor wife nor children more shall he behold,
Nor friends, nor sacred home. On every
nerve
The deadly winter seizes, shuts up sense,
And o'er his inmost vitals creeping cold,
Lays him along the snows a stiffened
corse, 320
Stretched out, and bleaching in the north-
ern blast.

From SUMMER

Rushing thence, in one diffusive band, 371
They drive the troubled flocks, by many a
dog
Compelled, to where the mazy-running
brook
Forms a deep pool; this bank abrupt and
high,
And that, fair-spreading in a pebbled
shore. 375
Urged to the giddy brink, much is the toil,
The clamor much, of men, and boys, and
dogs,
Ere the soft, fearful people to the flood
Commit their woolly sides. And oft the
swain,

On some impatient seizing, hurls them in:
Emboldened then, nor hesitating more, 381
Fast, fast, they plunge amid the flashing
wave,
And, panting, labor to the farther shore.
Repeated this, till deep the well-washed
fleece
Has drunk the flood, and from his lively
haunt 385
The trout is banished by the sordid stream;
Heavy and dripping, to the breezy brow
Slow move the harmless race; where, as
they spread
Their swelling treasures to the sunny ray,
Inly disturbed, and wondering what this
wild 390
Outrageous tumult means, their loud
complaints
The country fill—and, tossed from rock
to rock,
Incessant bleatings run around the hills.
At last, of snowy white, the gathered
flocks
Are in the wattled pen innumerable pressed,
Head above head; and ranged in lusty
rows 396
The shepherds sit, and whet the sounding
shears.
The housewife waits to roll her fleecy
stores,
With all her gay-dressed maids attending
round.
One, chief, in gracious dignity enthroned,
Shines o'er the rest, the pastoral queen,
and rays 401
Her smiles, sweet-beaming, on her shep-
herd-king;
While the glad circle round them yield
their souls
To festive mirth, and wit that knows no
gall.
Meantime, their joyous task goes on apace:
Some mingling stir the melted tar, and
some, 406
Deep on the new-shorn vagrant's heaving
side,
To stamp his master's cipher ready stand;
Others the unwilling wether drag along;
And, glorying in his might, the sturdy boy
Holds by the twisted horns the indignant
ram. 411
Behold where bound, and of its robe
bereft,
By needy man, that all-depending lord,

How meek, how patient, the mild creature
 lies!
 What softness in its melancholy face, 415
 What dumb complaining innocence ap-
 pears!
 Fear not, ye gentle tribes, 'tis not the
 knife
 Of horrid slaughter that is o'er you waved;
 No, 'tis the tender swain's well-guided
 shears,
 Who having now, to pay his annual
 care, 420
 Borrowed your fleece, to you a cumbrous
 load,
 Will send you bounding to your hills
 again.

From THE CASTLE OF INDOLENCE

In lowly dale, fast by a river's side, 10
 With woody hill o'er hill encompassed
 round,
 A most enchanting wizard did abide,
 Than whom a fiend more fell is nowhere
 found.
 It was, I ween, a lovely spot of ground;
 And there a season atween June and
 May, 15
 Half prankt¹ with spring, with summer
 half imbrowned,
 A listless climate made, where, sooth
 to say,
 No living wight could work, ne cared
 even for play.

Was nought around but images of rest:
 Sleep-soothing groves, and quiet lawns
 between; 20
 And flowery beds, that slumbrous in-
 fluence kest,²
 From poppies breathed; and beds of
 pleasant green,
 Where never yet was creeping creature
 seen.
 Meantime unnumbered glittering stream-
 lets played,
 And hurlèd everywhere their waters
 sheen; 25
 That, as they bickered through the
 sunny glade,
 Though restless still themselves, a lulling
 murmur made.

Joined to the prattle of the purling rills,
 Were heard the lowing herds along the
 vale,
 And flocks loud-bleating from the dis-
 tant hills, 30
 And vacant³ shepherds piping in the
 dale:
 And now and then sweet Philomel would
 wail,
 Or stock-doves plain amid the forest
 deep,
 That drowsy rustled to the sighing gale;
 And still a coil the grasshopper did keep:
 Yet all the sounds yblent⁴ inclinèd all to
 sleep. 36

Full in the passage of the vale, above,
 A sable, silent, solemn forest stood;
 Where nought but shadowy forms were
 seen to move,
 As Idless fancied in her dreaming mood:
 And up the hills, on either side, a wood
 Of blackening pines, aye waving to and
 fro, 42
 Sent forth a sleepy horror through the
 blood;
 And where this valley winded out below,
 The murmuring main was heard, and
 scarcely heard, to flow. 45

A pleasing land of drowsy-head⁵ it was:
 Of dreams that wave before the half-
 shut eye;
 And of gay castles in the clouds that
 pass,
 Forever flushing round a summer-sky.
 There eke⁶ the soft delights, that
 witchingly 50
 Instil a wanton sweetness through the
 breast,
 And the calm pleasures, always hov-
 ered nigh;
 But whate'er smackt of noyance,⁷ or
 unrest,
 Was far, far off expelled from this de-
 licious nest.

The landscape such, inspiring perfect
 ease, 55
 Where Indolence (for so the wizard
 hight)
 Close-hid his castle mid embowering
 trees,

¹ adorned.

² cast.

³ care-free. ⁴ mingled. ⁵ sleepiness. ⁶ also. ⁷ annoyance.

That half shut out the beams of Phœbus
 bright,
 And made a kind of checkered day and
 night.
 Meanwhile, unceasing at the massy
 gate, 60
 Beneath a spacious palm, the wicked
 wight¹
 Was placed; and to his lute, of cruel
 fate
 And labor harsh, complained, lamenting
 man's estate.

Thither continual pilgrims crowded still,
 From all the roads of earth that pass
 there by: 65
 For, as they chanced to breathe on
 neighboring hill,
 The freshness of this valley smote their
 eye,
 And drew them ever and anon more nigh;
 Till clustering round the enchanter
 false they hung,
 Ymolten with his syren melody; 70
 While o'er the enfeebling lute his hand
 he flung,
 And to the trembling chords these tempt-
 ing verses sung

"Behold! ye pilgrims of this earth,
 behold!
 See all but man with unearned pleasure
 gay:
 See her bright robes the butterfly unfold,
 Broke from her wintry tomb in prime
 of May! 76
 What youthful bride can equal her
 array?
 Who can with her for easy pleasure vie?
 From mead to mead with gentle wing
 to stray,
 From flower to flower on balmy gales to
 fly, 80
 Is all she has to do beneath the radiant
 sky."

RULE, BRITANNIA

When Britain first, at Heaven's command,
 Arose from out the azure main,
 This was the charter of the land,
 And guardian angels sang this strain:
 Rule, Britannia, rule the waves! 5
 Britons never will be slaves!

¹ person.

The nations not so blest as thee,
 Must in their turns to tyrants fall,
 Whilst thou shalt flourish great and free,
 The dread and envy of them all. 10
 Rule, Britannia, etc.

Still more majestic shalt thou rise,
 More dreadful from each foreign stroke;
 As the loud blast that tears the skies,
 Serves but to root thy native oak. 15
 Rule, Britannia, etc.

Thee haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame;
 All their attempts to bend thee down
 Will but arouse thy generous flame,
 But work their woe and thy renown. 20
 Rule, Britannia, etc.

To thee belongs the rural reign;
 Thy cities shall with commerce shine;
 All thine shall be the subject main,
 And every shore it circles thine. 25
 Rule, Britannia, etc.

The Muses, still with freedom found,
 Shall to thy happy coast repair;
 Blest isle, with matchless beauty crowned,
 And manly hearts to guard the fair! 30
 Rule, Britannia, etc.

EDWARD YOUNG (1681-1766)

NIGHT THOUGHTS ·

From NIGHT THE FIRST

Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy
 Sleep!
 He, like the world, his ready visit pays
 Where Fortune smiles; the wretched he
 forsakes:
 Swift on his downy pinion flies from woe,
 And lights on lids unsullied with a tear. 5
 From short (as usual) and disturbed re-
 pose
 I wake: how happy they who wake no
 more!
 Yet that were vain, if dreams infest the
 grave.
 I wake, emerging from a sea of dreams
 Tumultuous; where my wrecked despond-
 ing thought 10

From wave to wave of fancied misery
At random drove, her helm of reason lost.
Though now restored, 'tis only change of
pain—

A bitter change!—severer for severe:
The day too short for my distress; and
night, 15
Even in the zenith of her dark domain,
Is sunshine to the color of my fate.

Night, sable goddess, from her ebon
throne,

In rayless majesty, now stretches forth
Her leaden scepter o'er a slumbering world.
Silence how dead! and darkness how pro-
found! 21

Nor eye nor listening ear an object finds;
Creation sleeps. 'Tis as the general pulse
Of life stood still, and Nature made a
pause;

An awful pause! prophetic of her end. 25
And let her prophecy be soon fulfilled:
Fate! drop the curtain; I can lose no
more.

Silence and Darkness! solemn sisters!
twins

From ancient Night, who nurse the
tender thought

To reason, and on reason build resolve—
That column of true majesty in man— 31
Assist me: I will thank you in the grave;
The grave, your kingdom; there this frame
shall fall

A victim sacred to your dreary shrine.
But what are ye? Thou who didst put to
flight 35

Primeval Silence, when the morning stars,
Exulting, shouted o'er the rising ball;
O Thou! whose word from solid darkness
struck

That spark, the sun, strike wisdom from
my soul;

My soul which flies to thee, her trust, her
treasure, 40

As misers to their gold, while others rest.
Through this opaque of nature and of
soul,

This double night, transmit one pitying
ray

To lighten and to cheer. Oh, lead my
mind—

A mind that fain would wander from its
woe— 45

Lead it through various scenes of life and
death,

And from each scene the noblest truths
inspire.

Nor less inspire my conduct than my song;
Teach my best reason, reason; my best
will

Teach rectitude; and fix my firm resolve 50
Wisdom to wed, and pay her long arrear.
Nor let the phial of thy vengeance,
poured

On this devoted head, be poured in vain.

* * * * *

How poor, how rich, how abject, how
august,

How complicate, how wonderful is man!
How passing wonder He who made him
such!

Who centered in our make such strange
extremes, 70

From different natures marvellously mixed,
Connection exquisite of distant worlds,
Distinguished link in being's endless chain,
Midway from nothing to the Deity!

A beam ethereal, sullied and absorbed, 75
Though sullied and dishonored, still divine,
Dim miniature of greatness absolute!

An heir of glory, a frail child of dust,
Helpless immortal, insect infinite,

A worm, a god!—I tremble at myself, 80
And in myself am lost, at home a stranger.

Thought wanders up and down, surprised,
aghast,

And wondering at her own; how reason
reels!

Oh, what a miracle to man is man,
Triumphantly distressed! What joy, what
dread, 85

Alternately transported and alarmed!
What can preserve my life, or what de-
stroy?

An angel's arm can't snatch me from the
grave;

Legions of angels can't confine me there.

ROBERT BLAIR (1699–1746)

From THE GRAVE

While some affect the sun, and some the
shade,

Some flee the city, some the hermitage,
Their aims as various as the roads they
take

In journeying through life, the task be
mine
To paint the gloomy horrors of the tomb; 5
The appointed place of rendezvous, where
all
These travellers meet. Thy succors I
implore,
Eternal King! whose potent arm sustains
The keys of hell and death.—The Grave,
dread thing!
Men shiver when thou'rt named: nature,
appalled, 10
Shakes off her wonted firmness.—Ah, how
dark
Thy long-extended realms, and rueful
wastes!
Where nought but silence reigns, and
night, dark night,
Dark as was chaos, ere the infant sun
Was rolled together, or had tried his beams
Athwart the gloom profound.—The sickly
taper 16
By glimmering through thy low-browed
misty vaults,
Furred round with mouldy damps and
ropy slime,
Lets fall a supernumerary horror,
And only serves to make thy night more
irksome. 20
Well do I know thee by thy trusty yew,
Cheerless, unsocial plant! that loves to
dwell
Midst skulls and coffins, epitaphs and
worms:
Where light-heeled ghosts, and visionary
shades,
Beneath the wan cold moon (as fame re-
ports) 25
Embodied, thick, perform their mystic
rounds.
No other merriment, dull tree! is thine.
See yonder hallowed fane;—the pious
work
Of names once famed, now dubious or
forgot,
And buried midst the wreck of things
which were; 30
There lie interred the more illustrious
dead.
The wind is up: hark! how it howls! Me-
thinks
Till now I never heard a sound so dreary:
Doors creak, and windows clap, and
night's foul bird,

Rooked¹ in the spire, screams loud: the
gloomy aisles, 35
Black-plastered, and hung round with
shreds of 'scutcheons
And tattered coats of arms, send back the
sound
Laden with heavier airs, from the low
vaults,
The mansions of the dead.—Roused from
their slumbers,
In grim array the grisly spectres rise, 40
Grin horrible, and, obstinately sullen,
Pass and repass, hushed as the foot of
night.
Again the screech-owl shrieks: ungracious
sound!
I'll hear no more; it makes one's blood
run chill.
Quite round the pile, a row of reverend
elms, 45
(Coeval near with that) all ragged show,
Long lashed by the rude winds. Some
rift half down
Their branchless trunks; others so thin
a-top,
That scarce two crows could lodge in the
same tree.
Strange things, the neighbors say, have
happened here: 50
Wild shrieks have issued from the hollow
tombs;
Dead men have come again, and walked
about;
And the great bell has tolled, unring, un-
touched.
(Such tales their cheer, at wake or gossip-
ing,
When it draws near the witching time of
night.) 55
Oft in the lone church-yard at night I've
seen,
By glimpse of moonshine chequering
through the trees,
The school-boy, with his satchel in his
hand,
Whistling aloud to bear his courage up,
And lightly tripping o'er the long flat
stones, 60
(With nettles skirted, and with moss o'er-
grown.)
That tell in homely phrase who lie below.
Sudden he starts, and hears, or thinks he
hears,

¹ cowering.

The sound of something purring at his
heels;
Full fast he flies, and dares not look behind
him, 65
Till out of breath he overtakes his fel-
lows;
Who gather round, and wonder at the tale
Of horrid apparition, tall and ghastly,
That walks at dead of night, or takes his
stand
O'er some new-opened grave; and (strange
to tell!) 70
Evanishes at crowing of the cock.

WILLIAM COLLINS (1721–1759)

A SONG FROM SHAKESPEARE'S CYMBELINE

*Sung by Guiderus and Arviragus over Fidele,
supposed to be dead*

To fair Fidele's grassy tomb
Soft maids and village hinds shall bring
Each opening sweet, of earliest bloom,
And rifle all the breathing spring.

No wailing ghost shall dare appear, 5
To vex with shrieks this quiet grove;
But shepherd lads assemble here,
And melting virgins own their love.

No withered witch shall here be seen,
No goblins lead their nightly crew; 10
The female fays shall haunt the green,
And dress thy grave with pearly dew.

The redbreast oft at evening hours
Shall kindly lend his little aid,
With hoary moss, and gathered flow'rs, 15
To deck the ground where thou art laid.

When howling winds, and beating rain,
In tempests shake the sylvan cell,
Or midst the chase on every plain,
The tender thought on thee shall
dwell, 20

Each lonely scene shall thee restore,
For thee the tear be duly shed:
Beloved till life could charm no more;
And mourned till Pity's self be dead.

ODE

WRITTEN IN THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 1746

How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blest!
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mould,
She there shall dress a sweeter sod 5
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;
There Honor comes, a pilgrim grey,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay; 10
And Freedom shall awhile repair,
To dwell a weeping hermit there!

ODE TO EVENING

If ought of oaten stop, or pastoral song,
May hope, chaste Eve, to soothe thy modest
ear,
Like thy own solemn springs,
Thy springs and dying gales,

O nymph reserved, while now the bright-
haired sun 5
Sits in yon western tent, whose cloudy
skirts,
With brede¹ ethereal wove,
O'erhang his wavy bed:

Now air is hushed, save where the weak-
eyed bat,
With short shrill shriek, flits by on leathern
wing, 10
Or where the beetle winds
His small but sullen horn,

As oft he rises 'midst the twilight path,
Against the pilgrim borne in heedless hum:
Now teach me, maid composed, 15
To breathe some softened strain,

Whose numbers, stealing through thy
darkening vale
May not unseemly with its stillness suit,
As, musing slow, I hail
Thy genial loved return! 20

¹ embroidery.

For when thy folding-star arising shows
His paly circlet, at his warning lamp
The fragrant Hours, and elves
Who slept in flowers the day,

And many a nymph who wreathes her
brows with sedge, 25
And sheds the freshening dew, and, lovelier
still,
The pensive Pleasures sweet,
Prepare thy shadowy car.

Then lead, calm votaress, where some
sheety lake
Cheers the lone heath, or some time-
hallowed pile 30
Or upland fallows gray
Reflect its last cool gleam.

But when chill blustering winds, or driv-
ing rain,
Forbid my willing feet, be mine the
hut
That from the mountain's side 35
Views wilds, and swelling floods,

And hamlets brown, and dim-discovered
spires,
And hears their simple bell, and marks o'er
all
Thy dewy fingers draw
The gradual dusky veil. 40

While Spring shall pour his showers, as
oft he wont,
And bathe thy breathing tresses, meekest
Eve;
While Summer loves to sport
Beneath thy lingering light;

While sallow Autumn fills thy lap with
leaves; 45
Or Winter, yelling through the troublous
air,
Affrights thy shrinking train,
And rudely rends thy robes;

So long, sure-found beneath the sylvan
shed, 50
Shall Fancy, Friendship, Science, rose-
lipped Health,
Thy gentlest influence own,
And hymn thy favorite name!

THE PASSIONS

AN ODE FOR MUSIC

When Music, heavenly maid, was young,
While yet in early Greece she sung,
The Passions oft, to hear her shell,
Thronged around her magic cell,
Exulting, trembling, raging, fainting, 5
Possessed beyond the Muse's painting;
By turns they felt the glowing mind
Disturbed, delighted, raised, refined:
Till once, 'tis said, when all were fired,
Filled with fury, rapt, inspired, 10
From the supporting myrtles round
They snatched her instruments of sound;
And as they oft had heard apart
Sweet lessons of her forceful art,
Each, for madness ruled the hour, 15
Would prove his own expressive power.

First Fear his hand, its skill to try,
Amid the chords bewildered laid,
And back recoiled, he knew not why,
Ev'n at the sound himself had made. 20

Next Anger rushed; his eyes, on fire,
In lightnings owned his secret stings;
In one rude clash he struck the lyre,
And swept with hurried hand the
strings.

With woeful measures wan Despair 25
Low sullen sounds his grief beguiled;
A solemn, strange, and mingled air;
'Twas sad by fits, by starts 'twas wild.

But thou, O Hope, with eyes so fair,
What was thy delightful measure? 30
Still it whispered promised pleasure,
And bade the lovely scenes at distance
hail!

Still would her touch the strain prolong,
And from the rocks, the woods, the
vale,
She called on Echo still through all the
song; 35
And where her sweetest theme she
chose,
A soft responsive voice was heard at every
close,
And Hope, enchanted, smiled, and waved
her golden hair.

And longer had she sung,—but with a frown

Revenge impatient rose; 40

He threw his blood-stained sword in thunder down

And with a withering look

The war-denouncing trumpet took,

And blew a blast so loud and dread,

Were ne'er prophetic sounds so full of woe. 45

And ever and anon he beat

The doubling drum with furious heat;

And though sometimes, each dreary pause between,

Dejected Pity, at his side,

Her soul-subduing voice applied, 50

Yet still he kept his wild unaltered mien,

While each strained ball of sight seemed bursting from his head.

Thy numbers, Jealousy, to nought were fixed,

Sad proof of thy distressful state;

Of differing themes the veering song was mixed, 55

And now it courted Love, now raving called on Hate.

With eyes upraised, as one inspired,

Pale Melancholy sate retired,

And from her wild sequestered seat,

In notes by distance made more sweet, 60
Poured through the mellow horn her pen-
sive soul:

And, dashing soft from rocks around,

Bubbling runnels joined the sound;

Through glades and glooms the mingled measure stole;

Or o'er some haunted stream with fond delay 65

Round an holy calm diffusing,

Love of peace and lonely musing,

In hollow murmurs died away.

But oh, how altered was its sprightlier tone,

When Cheerfulness, a nymph of healthiest hue, 70

Her bow across her shoulder flung,

Her buskins gemmed with morning dew,

Blew an inspiring air, that dale and thicket rung,

The hunter's call, to faun and dryad known!

The oak-crowned sisters, and their chaste-eyed queen, 75

Satyrs, and sylvan boys, were seen,

Peeping from forth their alleys green;

Brown Exercise rejoiced to hear,

And Sport leaped up, and seized his beachen spear.

Last came Joy's ecstatic trial. 80

He, with viny crown advancing,

First to the lively pipe his hand addressed;

But soon he saw the brisk awakening viol,

Whose sweet entrancing voice he loved the best.

They would have thought, who heard the strain, 85

They saw in Tempe's vale her native maids

Amidst the festal sounding shades,

To some unwearied minstrel dancing,
While, as his flying fingers kissed the strings,

Loved framed with Mirth a gay fantastic round; 90

Loose were her tresses seen, her zone unbound,

And he, amidst his frolic play,

As if he would the charming air repay,
Shook thousand odors from his dewy wings.

O Music, sphere-descended maid, 95

Friend of Pleasure, Wisdom's aid,

Why, goddess, why, to us denied,

Lay'st thou thy ancient lyre aside?

As in that loved Athenian bower

You learned an all-commanding power, 100

Thy mimic soul, O nymph endeared,

Can well recall what then it heard.

Where is thy native simple heart,

Devote to Virtue, Fancy, Art?

Arise as in that elder time, 105

Warm, energetic,¹ chaste, sublime!

Thy wonders, in that godlike age,

Fill thy recording sister's page.—

'Tis said, and I believe the tale,

Thy humblest reed could more prevail, 110

Had more of strength, diviner rage,

Than all which charms this laggard age,

Ev'n all at once together found,

Cecilia's mingled world of sound.

¹ energetic.

O bid our vain endeavors cease, 115
Revive the just designs of Greece,
Return in all thy simple state,
Confirm the tales her sons relate!

THOMAS GRAY (1716-1771)

ODE ON A DISTANT PROSPECT OF
ETON COLLEGE

Ye distant spires, ye antique towers,
That crown the watry glade,
Where grateful Science still adores
Her Henry's holy Shade;
And ye, that from the stately brow 5
Of Windsor's heights the expanse below
Of grove, of lawn, of mead survey,
Whose turf, whose shade, whose flowers
among
Wanders the hoary Thames along
His silver-winding way: 10

Ah, happy hills, ah, pleasing shade,
Ah, fields beloved in vain,
Where once my careless childhood strayed,
A stranger yet to pain!
I feel the gales, that from ye blow, 15
A momentary bliss bestow,
As waving fresh their gladsome wing,
My weary soul they seem to sooth,
And, redolent of joy and youth,
To breathe a second spring. 20

Say, Father Thames, for thou hast seen
Full many a sprightly race
Disporting on thy margent green
The paths of pleasure trace,
Who foremost now delight to cleave 25
With pliant arm thy glassy wave?
The captive linnet which enthral?
What idle progeny succeed
To chase the rolling circle's speed,
Or urge the flying ball? 30

While some on earnest business bent
Their murm'ring labors ply
'Gainst graver hours, that bring con-
straint
To sweeten liberty;
Some bold adventurers disdain 35
The limits of their little reign,
And unknown regions dare descry:

Still as they run they look behind,
They hear a voice in every wind,
And snatch a fearful joy. 40

Gay hope is theirs by fancy fed,
Less pleasing when possessed;
The tear forgot as soon as shed,
The sunshine of the breast:
Theirs buxom health of rosy hue, 45
Wild wit, invention ever-new,
And lively cheer of vigor born;
The thoughtless day, the easy night,
The spirits pure, the slumbers light,
That fly the approach of morn. 50

Alas, regardless of their doom,
The little victims play!
No sense have they of ills to come,
Nor care beyond to-day:
Yet see how all around 'em wait 55
The Ministers of human fate,
And black Misfortune's baleful train!
Ah, show them where in ambush stand
To seize their prey the murth'rous band!
Ah, tell them, they are men! 60

These shall the fury Passions tear,
The vultures of the mind,
Disdainful Anger, pallid Fear,
And Shame that skulks behind;
Or pining Love shall waste their youth, 65
Or Jealousy with rankling tooth,
That inly gnaws the secret heart,
And Envy wan, and faded Care,
Grim-visaged, comfortless Despair,
And Sorrow's piercing dart. 70

Ambition this shall tempt to rise,
Then whirl the wretch from high,
To bitter Scorn a sacrifice,
And grinning Infamy.
The stings of Falsehood those shall try, 75
And hard Unkindness' altered eye,
That mocks the tear it forced to flow;
And keen Remorse with blood defiled,
And moody Madness laughing wild
Amid severest woe. 80

Lo, in the vale of years beneath
A griesly troop are seen,
The painful family of Death,
More hideous than their Queen:
This racks the joints, this fires the veins, 85

That every laboring sinew strains,
 Those in the deeper vitals rage;
 Lo, Poverty, to fill the band,
 That numbs the soul with icy hand,
 And slow-consuming Age. 90

To each his sufferings: all are men,
 Condemned alike to groan,
 The tender for another's pain,
 The unfeeling for his own.
 Yet ah! why should they know their
 fate?
 Since sorrow never comes too late, 96
 And happiness too swiftly flies.
 Thought would destroy their paradise.
 No more; where ignorance is bliss,
 'Tis folly to be wise. 100

ELEGY
 WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY
 CHURCHYARD

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the
 lea,
 The plowman homeward plods his weary
 way,
 And leaves the world to darkness and to
 me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on
 the sight, 5
 And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
 Save where the beetle wheels his droning
 flight,
 And drowsy tinklings lull the distant
 folds;

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower
 The moping owl does to the moon com-
 plain 10
 Of such, as wandering near her secret
 bower,
 Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-
 tree's shade,
 Where heaves the turf in many a mould-
 ering heap,
 Each in his narrow cell for ever laid, 15
 The rude forefathers of the hamlet
 sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,
 The swallow twittering from the straw-
 built shed,
 The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing
 horn,
 No more shall rouse them from their
 lowly bed. 20

For them no more the blazing hearth shall
 burn,
 Or busy housewife ply her evening care:
 No children run to lisp their sire's return,
 Or climb his knees the envied kiss to
 share.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield, 25
 Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe
 has broke;
 How jocund did they drive their team
 afield!
 How bowed the woods beneath their
 sturdy stroke!

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
 Their homely joys, and destiny ob-
 scure; 30
 Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful
 smile,
 The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
 And all that beauty, all that wealth
 e'er gave,
 Awaits alike the inevitable hour. 35
 The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the
 fault,
 If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies
 raise,
 Where through the long-drawn aisle and
 fretted vault
 The pealing anthem swells the note of
 praise. 40

Can storied¹ urn or animated bust
 Back to its mansion call the fleeting
 breath?
 Can Honor's voice provoke the silent
 dust,
 Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of
 Death?

¹ pictured.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid 45
 Some heart once pregnant with celestial
 fire;
 Hands, that the rod of empire might have
 swayed,
 Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample
 page
 Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er
 unroll; 50
 Chill Penury repressed their noble rage,
 And froze the genial current of the soul.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
 The dark unfathomed caves of ocean
 bear:
 Full many a flower is born to blush un-
 seen, 55
 And waste its sweetness on the desert
 air.

Some village Hampden, that with daunt-
 less breast
 The little tyrant of his fields withstood;
 Some mute inglorious Milton here may
 rest,
 Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's
 blood. 60

The applause of listening senates to com-
 mand,
 The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
 To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
 And read their history in a nation's
 eyes,

Their lot forbade: nor circumscribed
 alone 65
 Their growing virtues, but their crimes
 confined;
 Forbade to wade through slaughter to a
 throne,
 And shut the gates of mercy on man-
 kind,

The struggling pangs of conscious truth
 to hide,
 To quench the blushes of ingenuous
 shame, 70
 Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride
 With incense kindled at the Muse's
 flame.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble
 strife,
 Their sober wishes never learned to
 stray;
 Along the cool sequestered vale of life 75
 They kept the noiseless tenor of their
 way.

Yet even these bones from insult to pro-
 tect,
 Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
 With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculp-
 ture decked,
 Implores the passing tribute of a sigh. 80

Their name, their years, spelt by the un-
 lettered muse,
 The place of fame and elegy supply;
 And many a holy text around she strews,
 That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For who to dumb Forgetfulness a prey, 85
 This pleasing anxious being e'er re-
 signed,
 Left the warm precincts of the cheerful
 day,
 Nor cast one longing lingering look
 behind?

On some fond breast the parting soul re-
 lies,
 Some pious drops the closing eye re-
 quires; 90
 Ev'n from the tomb the voice of Nature
 cries,
 Ev'n in our ashes live their wonted fires.

For thee, who mindful of the unhonored
 dead
 Dost in these lines their artless tale re-
 late;
 If chance, by lonely contemplation led, 95
 Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy
 fate,

Haply some hoary-headed swain may
 say,
 "Oft have we seen him at the peep of
 dawn
 Brushing with hasty steps the dews
 away
 To meet the sun upon the upland
 lawn. 100

"There at the foot of yonder nodding
 beech
 That wreathes its old fantastic roots so
 high,
 His listless length at noontide would he
 stretch,
 And pore upon the brook that babbles
 by.

"Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in
 scorn, ¹⁰⁵
 Muttering his wayward fancies he
 would rove,
 Now drooping, woeful wan, like one for-
 lorn,
 Or crazed with care, or crossed in hope-
 less love.

"One morn I missed him on the custom'd
 hill,
 Along the heath and near his favorite
 tree; ¹¹⁰
 Another came; nor yet beside the rill,
 Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was
 he;

"The next with dirges due in sad array
 Slow through the church-way path we
 saw him borne.
 Approach and read (for thou can'st read)
 the lay, ¹¹⁵
 Graved on the stone beneath yon aged
 thorn."

THE EPITAPH

*Here rests his head upon the lap of earth
 A youth to fortune and to fame unknown.
 Fair Science frowned not on his humble
 birth,
 And Melancholy marked him for her
 own. ¹²⁰*

*Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,
 Heaven did a recompense as largely send:
 He gave to Misery all he had, a tear,
 He gained from Heaven ('twas all he
 wished) a friend.*

*No farther seek his merits to disclose, ¹²⁵
 Or draw his fraillies from their dread
 abode,
 (There they alike in trembling hope repose)
 The bosom of his Father and his God.*

THE PROGRESS OF POESY

A PINDARIC ODE

I

The Strophe

Awake, Æolian lyre, awake,
 And give to rapture all thy trembling
 strings.
 From Helicon's harmonious springs
 A thousand rills their mazy progress take:
 The laughing flowers, that round them
 blow, ⁵
 Drink life and fragrance as they flow.
 Now the rich stream of music winds along
 Deep, majestic, smooth, and strong,
 Through verdant vales, and Ceres' golden
 reign:
 Now rolling down the steep amain, ¹⁰
 Headlong, impetuous, see it pour:
 The rocks and nodding groves rebellow to
 the roar.

The Antistrophe

Oh! Sovereign of the willing soul,
 Parent of sweet and solemn-breathing airs,
 Enchanting shell! the sullen Cares ¹⁵
 And frantic Passions hear thy soft control.
 On Thracia's hills the Lord of War,
 Has curbed the fury of his car,
 And dropped his thirsty lance at thy
 command.
 Perching on the scepter'd hand ²⁰
 Of Jove, thy magic lulls the feathered king
 With ruffled plumes, and flagging wing:
 Quenched in dark clouds of slumber lie
 The terror of his beak, and lightnings of
 his eye.

The Epode

Thee the voice, the dance, obey, ²⁵
 Tempered to thy warbled lay.
 O'er Idalia's velvet-green
 The rosy-crown'd Loves are seen
 On Cytherea's day
 With antic Sports, and blue-eyed Pleas-
 ures, ³⁰
 Frisking light in frolic measures;
 Now pursuing, now retreating,
 Now in circling troops they meet:
 To brisk notes in cadence beating
 Glance their many-twinkling feet. ³⁵

Slow melting strains their Queen's approach declare:
 Where'er she turns the Graces homage pay.
 With arms sublime,¹ that float upon the air,
 In gliding state she wins her easy way:
 O'er her warm cheek, and rising bosom,
 move 40
 The bloom of young desire, and purple
 light of love.

II

The Strophe

Man's feeble race what ills await,
 Labor, and Penury, the racks of Pain,
 Disease, and Sorrow's weeping train,
 And Death, sad refuge from the storms of
 Fate! 45
 The fond complaint, my song, disprove,
 And justify the laws of Jove.
 Say, has he given in vain the heavenly
 Muse?
 Night, and all her sickly dews,
 Her spectres wan, and birds of boding cry,
 He gives to range the dreary sky: 51
 Till down the eastern cliffs afar
 Hyperion's march they spy, and glittering
 shafts of war.

The Antistrophe

In climes beyond the solar road,
 Where shaggy forms o'er ice-built mountains roam, 55
 The Muse has broke the twilight-gloom,
 To cheer the shivering native's dull abode.
 And oft, beneath the odorous shade
 Of Chili's boundless forests laid,
 She deigns to hear the savage youth repeat 60
 In loose numbers wildly sweet
 Their feather-cinctured chiefs, and dusky
 loves.
 Her track, where'er the Goddess roves,
 Glory pursue, and generous Shame,
 The unconquerable mind, and Freedom's
 holy flame. 65

The Epode

Woods, that wave o'er Delphi's steep,
 Isles, that crown the Ægean deep,
 Fields, that cool Ilissus laves,
 Or where Mæander's amber waves

¹ uplifted.

In lingering labyrinths creep, 70
 How do your tuneful echoes languish,
 Mute, but to the voice of Anguish?
 Where each old poetic mountain
 Inspiration breathed around:
 Every shade and hallowed fountain 75
 Murmured 'deep a solemn sound:
 Till the sad Nine in Greece's evil hour
 Left their Parnassus for the Latian plains.
 Alike they scorn the pomp of tyrant-
 Power,
 And coward Vice, that revels in her
 chains. 80
 When Latium had her lofty spirit lost,
 They sought, O Albion! next thy sea-
 encircled coast.

III

The Strophe

Far from the sun and summer-gale,
 In thy green lap was Nature's darling
 laid,
 What time, where lucid Avon strayed, 85
 To him the mighty mother did unveil
 Her awful face: the dauntless child
 Stretched forth his little arms, and smiled.
 This pencil take (she said) whose colors
 clear
 Richly paint the vernal year: 90
 Thine too these golden keys, immortal
 boy!
 This can unlock the gates of Joy;
 Of Horror that, and thrilling Fears,
 Or ope the sacred source of sympathetic
 tears.

The Antistrophe

Nor second he, that rode sublime 95
 Upon the seraph-wings of Ecstasy,
 The secrets of the Abyss to spy.
 He passed the flaming bounds of place
 and time:
 The living throne, the sapphire-blaze,
 Where angels tremble, while they gaze, 100
 He saw; but blasted with excess of light,
 Closed his eyes in endless night.
 Behold, where Dryden's less presumptuous
 car,
 Wide o'er the fields of glory bear
 Two coursers of ethereal race, 105
 With necks in thunder clothed, and long-
 resounding pace.

The Epode

Hark, his hands the lyre explore!
 Bright-eyed Fancy hovering o'er
 Scatters from her pictured urn
 Thoughts that breathe, and words that
 burn. 110
 But ah! 'tis heard no more——
 O Lyre divine, what daring spirit
 Wakes thee now? though he inherit
 Nor the pride, nor ample pinion,
 That the Theban Eagle bear 115
 Sailing with supreme dominion
 Through the azure deep of air:
 Yet oft before his infant eyes would run
 Such forms, as glitter in the Muse's ray
 With orient hues, unborrowed of the
 Sun: 120
 Yet shall he mount, and keep his distant
 way
 Beyond the limits of a vulgar fate,
 Beneath the good how far—but far above
 the great.

THE BARD

A PINDARIC ODE

I

The Strophe

"Ruin seize thee, ruthless King!
 Confusion on thy banners wait,
 Though fanned by Conquest's crimson
 wing
 They mock the air with idle state.
 Helm, nor hauberk's twisted mail, 5
 Nor even thy virtues, Tyrant, shall avail
 To save thy secret soul from nightly
 fears,
 From Cambria's curse, from Cambria's
 tears!"
 Such were the sounds, that o'er the
 crested pride
 Of the first Edward scattered wild dis-
 may, 10
 As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy
 side
 He wound with toilsome march his long
 array.
 Stout Glo'ster stood aghast in speechless
 trance;
 "To arms!" cried Mortimer, and couched
 his quivering lance.

The Antistrophe

On a rock, whose haughty brow 15
 Frowns o'er old Conway's foaming flood,
 Robed in the sable garb of woe,
 With haggard eyes the Poet stood;
 (Loose his beard, and hoary hair
 Streamed, like a meteor, to the troubled
 air) 20
 And with a master's hand, and prophet's
 fire,
 Struck the deep sorrows of his lyre:
 "Hark, how each giant-oak, and desert
 cave,
 Sighs to the torrent's awful voice be-
 neath!
 O'er thee, O King! their hundred arms
 they wave, 25
 Revenge on thee in hoarser murmurs
 breathe;
 Vocal no more, since Cambria's fatal day,
 To high-born Hoel's harp, or soft Llewel-
 lyn's lay.

The Epode

"Cold is Cadwallo's tongue,
 That hushed the stormy main; 30
 Brave Urien sleeps upon his craggy bed:
 Mountains, ye mourn in vain
 Modred, whose magic song
 Made huge Plinlimmon bow his cloud-
 topped head.
 On dreary Arvon's shore they lie, 35
 Smeared with gore, and ghastly pale:
 Far, far aloof the affrighted ravens sail;
 The famished eagle screams, and passes by.
 Dear lost companions of my tuneful art,
 Dear, as the light that visits these sad
 eyes, 40
 Dear, as the ruddy drops that warm my
 heart,
 Ye died amidst your dying country's
 cries—
 No more I weep. They do not sleep.
 On yonder cliffs, a griesly band,
 I see them sit, they linger yet, 45
 Avengers of their native land:
 With me in dreadful harmony they join,
 And weave with bloody hands the tissue of
 thy line:—

II

The Strophe

"Weave the warp, and weave the woof,
 The winding sheet of Edward's race. 50

Give ample room, and verge enough
 The characters of hell to trace.
 Mark the year, and mark the night,
 When Severn shall re-echo with affright
 The shrieks of death, through Berkley's
 roofs that ring, 55
 Shrieks of an agonising king!
 She-Wolf of France, with unrelenting
 fangs,
 That tear'st the bowels of thy mangled
 mate,
 From thee be born, who o'er thy country
 hangs
 The scourge of Heaven. What terrors
 round him wait! 60
 Amazement in his van, with flight combin-
 ed,
 And sorrow's faded form, and solitude
 behind.

The Antistrophe

"Mighty Victor, mighty Lord,
 Low on his funeral couch he lies!
 No pitying heart, no eye, afford 65
 A tear to grace his obsequies.
 Is the sable warrior fled?
 Thy son is gone. He rests among the
 dead.
 The swarm, that in thy noon-tide beam
 were born?
 Gone to salute the rising morn. 70
 Fair laughs the morn, and soft the zephyr
 blows,
 While proudly riding o'er the azure realm
 In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes;
 Youth on the prow, and Pleasure at the
 helm;
 Regardless of the sweeping whirlwind's
 sway, 75
 That, hushed in grim repose, expects his
 evening prey.

The Epode

"Fill high the sparkling bowl,
 The rich repast prepare;
 Reft of a crown, he yet may share the
 feast.
 Close by the regal chair 80
 Fell Thirst and Famine scowl
 A baleful smile upon their baffled guest.
 Heard ye the din of battle bray,
 Lance to lance and horse to horse?
 Long years of havoc urge their destined
 course, 85

And through the kindred squadrons mow
 their way.
 Ye Towers of Julius, London's lasting
 shame,
 With many a foul and midnight murder
 fed,
 Revere his consort's faith, his father's
 fame,
 And spare the meek usurper's holy head. 90
 Above, below, the rose of snow,
 Twined with her blushing foe, we spread:
 The bristled Boar in infant-gore
 Wallows beneath the thorny shade.
 Now, brothers, bending o'er the accursed
 loom 95
 Stamp we our vengeance deep, and ratify
 his doom.

III

The Strophe

"Edward, lo! to sudden fate
 (Weave we the woof. The thread is spun.)
 Half of thy heart we consecrate.
 (The web is wove. The work is done.)'—
 Stay, oh stay! nor thus forlorn 101
 Leave me unblessed, unpitied, here to
 mourn!
 In yon bright track, that fires the western
 skies,
 They melt, they vanish from my eyes.
 But oh! what solemn scenes on Snow-
 don's height 105
 Descending slow their glittering skirts
 unroll?
 Visions of glory, spare my aching sight,
 Ye unborn ages, crowd not on my soul!
 No more our long-lost Arthur we bewail.
 All-hail, ye genuine kings, Britannia's
 issue, hail! 110

The Antistrophe

"Girt with many a baron bold
 Sublime their starry fronts they rear;
 And gorgeous dames, and statesmen old
 In bearded majesty, appear.
 In the midst a form divine! 115
 Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-line;
 Her lion-port, her awe-commanding face,
 Attempered sweet to virgin-grace.
 What strings symphonious tremble in the
 air,
 What strains of vocal transport round her
 play! 120

Hear from the grave, great Taliessin,
hear;
They breathe a soul to animate thy
clay.
Bright Rapture calls, and soaring, as she
sings,
Waves in the eye of Heaven her many-
colored wings.

The Epode

"The verse adorn again 125
Fierce War, and faithful Love,
And Truth severe, by fairy Fiction drest.
In buskined measures move
Pale Grief, and pleasing Pain,
With Horror, Tyrant of the throbbing
breast. 130
A voice, as of the cherub-choir,
Gales from blooming Eden bear;
And distant warblings lessen on my ear,
That lost in long futurity expire.

Fond¹ impious man, think'st thou, yon
sanguine cloud, 135
Raised by thy breath, has quenched the
orb of day?

To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
And warms the nations with redoubled
ray.

Enough for me: with joy I see
The different doom our fates assign. 140
Be thine Despair, and scepter'd Care,
To triumph, and to die, are mine."

He spoke, and headlong from the
mountain's height
Deep in the roaring tide he plunged to
endless night.

THE FATAL SISTERS

AN ODE

FROM THE NORSE TONGUE

Now the storm begins to lower,
(Haste, the loom of hell prepare,)
Iron-sleet of arrowy shower
Hurtles in the darkened air.

Glittering lances are the loom, 5
Where the dusky warp we strain,
Weaving many a soldier's doom,
Orkney's woe, and Randver's bane.

¹ foolish.

See the griesly texture grow!
('Tis of human entrails made,) 10
And the weights, that play below,
Each a gasping warrior's head.

Shafts for shuttles, dipt in gore,
Shoot the trembling cords along.
Sword, that once a monarch bore, 15
Keep the tissue close and strong.

Mista black, terrific maid,
Sangrida, and Hilda, see,
Join the wayward work to aid:
'Tis the woof of victory. 20

Ere the ruddy sun be set,
Pikes must shiver, javelins sing,
Blade with clattering buckler meet,
Hauberk crash, and helmet ring.

(Weave the crimson web of war.) 25
Let us go, and let us fly,
Where our friends the conflict share,
Where they triumph, where they die.

As the paths of fate we tread,
Wading through the ensanguined field: 30
Gondula, and Geira, spread
O'er the youthful king your shield.

We the reins to slaughter give,
Ours to kill, and ours to spare:
Spite of danger he shall live. 35
(Weave the crimson web of war.)

They, whom once the desert-beach
Pent within its bleak domain,
Soon their ample sway shall stretch
O'er the plenty of the plain. 40

Low the dauntless earl is laid,
Gored with many a gaping wound:
Fate demands a nobler head;
Soon a king shall bite the ground.

Long his loss shall Eirin weep, 45
Ne'er again his likeness see;
Long her strains in sorrow steep,
Strains of immortality!

Horror covers all the heath,
Clouds of carnage blot the sun. 50
Sisters, weave the web of death;
Sisters, cease, the work is done.

Hail the task, and hail the hands!
 Songs of joy and triumph sing!
 Joy to the victorious bands; 55
 Triumph to the younger king.

Mortal, thou that hear'st the tale,
 Learn the tenor of our song.
 Scotland, through each winding vale
 Far and wide the notes prolong. 60

Sisters, hence with spurs of speed:
 Each her thundering falchion wield;
 Each bestride her sable steed.
 Hurry, hurry to the field.

SKETCH OF HIS OWN CHARACTER

Too poor for a bribe, and too proud to
 importune;
 He had not the method of making a
 fortune;
 Could love, and could hate, so was thought
 somewhat odd;
 No very great wit, he believed in a God.
 A place or a pension he did not desire, 5
 But left church and state to Charles
 Townshend and Squire.

LETTERS

TO MRS. DOROTHY GRAY

LYONS, *October 13, 1739.*

. . . It is a fortnight since we set
 out from hence upon a little excursion to
 Geneva. We took the longest road,
 which lies through Savoy, on purpose to
 see a famous monastery, called the Grand
 Chartreuse, and had no reason to think
 our time lost. After having travelled
 seven days very slow (for we did not
 change horses, it being impossible for a
 chaise to go post in these roads) we [10
 arrived at a little village, among the
 mountains of Savoy, called Echelles;
 from thence we proceeded on horses, who
 are used to the way, to the mountain of
 the Chartreuse. It is six miles to the top;
 the road runs winding up it, commonly not
 six feet broad; on one hand is the rock,
 with woods of pine-trees hanging over-
 head; on the other, a monstrous precipice,
 almost perpendicular, at the bottom [20

of which rolls a torrent, that sometimes
 tumbling among the fragments of stone
 that have fallen from on high, and some-
 times precipitating itself down vast de-
 scents with a noise like thunder, which is
 still made greater by the echo from the
 mountains on each side, concurs to form
 one of the most solemn, the most roman-
 tic, and the most astonishing scenes I
 ever beheld. . . . [30

TO MRS. DOROTHY GRAY

TURIN, *November 7, 1739.*

I am this night arrived here, and have
 just set down to rest me after eight days'
 tiresome journey. For the first three we
 had the same road we before passed
 through to go to Geneva; the fourth we
 turned out of it, and for that day and the
 next travelled rather among than upon
 the Alps; the way commonly running
 through a deep valley by the side of the
 river Arve, which works itself a pas- [10
 sage, with great difficulty and a mighty
 noise, among vast quantities of rocks,
 that have rolled down from the mountain-
 tops. The winter was so far advanced
 as in great measure to spoil the beauty
 of the prospect; however, there was still
 somewhat fine remaining amidst the
 savageness and horror of the place: the
 sixth we began to go up several of these
 mountains; and as we were passing [20
 one, met with an odd accident enough:
 Mr. Walpole had a little fat black spaniel,
 that he was very fond of, which he some-
 times used to set down, and let it run by
 the chaise side. We were at that time in
 a very rough road, not two yards broad at
 most; on one side was a great wood of
 pines, and on the other a vast precipice;
 it was noonday, and the sun shone bright,
 when all of a sudden, from the wood- [30
 side (which was as steep upwards as the
 other part was downwards), out rushed a
 great wolf, came close to the head of the
 horses, seized the dog by the throat, and
 rushed up the hill again with him in his
 mouth. This was done in less than a
 quarter of a minute; we all saw it, and
 yet the servants had not time to draw
 their pistols, or do anything to save the
 dog. If he had not been there, and [40
 the creature had thought fit to lay hold

of one of the horses, chaise, and we, and all must inevitably have tumbled about fifty fathoms perpendicular down the precipice. The seventh we came to Lanebourg, the last town in Savoy; it lies at the foot of the famous Mount Cenis, which is so situated as to allow no room for any way but over the very top of it. Here the chaise was forced to be pulled to [50 pieces, and the baggage and that to be carried by mules. We ourselves were wrapped up in our furs, and seated upon a sort of matted chair without legs, which is carried upon poles in the manner of a bier, and so begun to ascend by the help of eight men. It was six miles to the top, where a plain opens itself about as many more in breadth, covered perpetually with very deep snow, and in the midst [60 of that a great lake of unfathomable depth, from whence a river takes its rise, and tumbles over monstrous rocks quite down the other side of the mountain. The descent is six miles more, but infinitely more steep than the going up; and, here the men perfectly fly down with you, stepping from stone to stone with incredible swiftness in places where none but they could go three paces without [70 falling. The immensity of the precipices, the roaring of the river and torrents that run into it, the huge crags covered with ice and snow, and the clouds below you and about you, are objects it is impossible to conceive without seeing them; and though we had heard many strange descriptions of the scene, none of them at all came up to it. . . .

TO RICHARD WEST

TURIN, *November 16, 1739.*

. . . I have not, as yet, anywhere met with those grand and simple works of Art, that are to amaze one, and whose sight one is to be the better for: but those of Nature have astonished me beyond expression. In our little journey up to the Grande Chartreuse, I do not remember to have gone ten paces without an exclamation that there was no restraining. Not a precipice, not a torrent, not a cliff, [10 but is pregnant with religion and poetry. There are certain scenes that would awe an atheist into belief, without the help of

other argument. One need not have a very fantastic imagination to see spirits there at noonday; you have Death perpetually before your eyes, only so far removed, as to compose the mind without frightening it. I am well persuaded St. Bruno was a man of no common genius, [20 to choose such a situation for his retirement; and perhaps should have been a disciple of his, had I been born in his time. . . .

TO HORACE WALPOLE

CAMBRIDGE, *February 11, 1751.*

As you have brought me into a little sort of distress, you must assist me, I believe, to get out of it as well as I can. Yesterday I had the misfortune of receiving a letter from certain gentlemen (as their bookseller expresses it), who have taken the *Magazine of Magazines* into their hands. They tell me that an *ingenious* poem, called reflections in a Country Church-yard, has been com- [10 municated to them, which they are printing forthwith; that they are informed that the *excellent* author of it is I by name, and that they beg not only his *indulgence*, but the *honor* of his correspondence, etc. As I am not at all disposed to be either so indulgent, or so correspondent, as they desire, I have but one bad way left to escape the honor they would inflict upon me; and therefore am obliged to desire [20 you would make Dodsley print it immediately (which may be done in less than a week's time) from your copy, but without my name, in what form is most convenient to him, but on his best paper and character; he must correct the press himself, and print it without any interval between the stanzas, because the sense is in some places continued beyond them; and the title must be, — *Elegy, writ-* [30 *ten in a Country Church-yard.* If he would add a line or two to say it came into his hands by accident, I should like it better. If you behold the *Magazine of Magazines* in the light that I do, you will not refuse to give yourself this trouble on my account, which you have taken of your own accord before now. If Dodsley do not do this immediately, he may as well let it alone. [40

TO THE REV. WILLIAM MASON

December 19, 1757.

Dear Mason—Though I very well know the bland emollient saponaceous qualities both of sack and silver, yet if any great man would say to me, "I make you rat-catcher to his Majesty, with a salary of £300 a year and two butts of the best Malaga; and though it has been usual to catch a mouse or two, for form's sake, in public once a year, yet to you, sir, we will not stand upon these things," I can- [10 not say I should jump at it; nay, if they would drop the very name of the office, and call me Sinecure to the King's Majesty, I should still feel a little awkward, and think everybody I saw smelt a rat about me; but I do not pretend to blame any one else that has not the same sensations; for my part I would rather be serjeant trumpeter or pinmaker to the palace. Nevertheless I interest my- [20 self a little in the history of it, and rather wish somebody may accept it that will retrieve the credit of the thing, if it be retrievable, or ever had any credit. Rowe was, I think, the last man of character that had it. As to Settle, whom you mention, he belonged to my lord mayor, not to the king. Eusden was a person of great hopes in his youth, though he at last turned out a drunken parson. [30 Dryden was as disgraceful to the office, from his character, as the poorest scribbler could have been from his verses. The office itself has always humbled the professor hitherto (even in an age when kings were somebody), if he were a poor writer by making him more conspicuous, and if he were a good one by setting him at war with the little fry of his own profession, for there are poets little enough to [40 envy even a poet-laureate. . . .

JAMES MACPHERSON (1736–1796)

From CATH-LODA

A Tale of the times of old!

Why, thou wanderer unseen! Thou bender of the thistle of Lora; why, thou breeze of the valley, hast thou left mine ear? I hear no distant roar of streams!

No sound of the harp, from the rock!
Come, thou huntress of Lutha, Malvina,
call back his soul to the bard. I look
forward to Lochlin of lakes, to the dark,
billowy bay of U-thorno, where Fingal [10
descends from ocean, from the roar of
winds. Few are the heroes of Morven, in
a land unknown!

Starno sent a dweller of Loda, to bid
Fingal to the feast; but the king remem-
bered the past, and all his rage arose.
"Nor Gormal's mossy towers, nor Starno,
shall Fingal behold. Deaths wander, like
shadows, over his fiery soul! Do I forget
that beam of light, the white-handed [20
daughter of kings? Go, son of Loda; his
words are wind to Fingal: wind, that to
and fro drives the thistle, in autumn's
dusky vale. Duth-maruno, arm of death!
Cromma-glas, of iron shields! Struthmor,
dweller of battle's wing! Cormar, whose
ships bound on seas, careless as the course
of a meteor, on dark-rolling clouds!
Arise around me, children of heroes, in a
land unknown! Let each look on his [30
shield, like Trenmor, the ruler of wars."

* * * * *

Around the king they rise in wrath. No
words come forth: they seize their spears.
Each soul is rolled into itself. At length
the sudden clang is waked, on all their
echoing shields. Each takes his hill, by
night; at intervals, they darkly stand.
Unequal bursts the hum of songs, between
the roaring wind!

Broad over them rose the moon! [40

In his arms came tall Duth-maruno;
he from Croma of rocks, stern hunter of
the boar! In his dark boat he rose on
waves.

* * * * *

Fingal rushed, in all his arms, wide-
bounding over Turthor's stream, that
sent its sullen roar by night through
Gormal's misty vale. A moon-beam glit-
tered on a rock; in the midst, stood a
stately form; a form with floating [50
locks, like Lochlin's white-bosomed maids.
Unequal are her steps, and short. She
throws a broken song on wind. At times
she tosses her white arms: for grief is
dwelling in her soul.

* * * * *

Whence is the stream of years? Whither do they roll along? Where have they hid, in mist, their many-colored sides?

I look into the times of old, but they seem dim to Ossian's eyes, like reflected moonbeams on a distant lake. Here rise the red beams of war! There, silent, dwells a feeble race! They mark no years with their deeds, as slow they pass along. Dweller between the shields! thou that awakest the failing soul! descend from thy wall, harp of Cona, with thy voices three! Come with that which kindles the past: rear the forms of old, on their own dark-brown years! [70]

From THE SONGS OF SELMA

It is night; I am alone, forlorn on the hill of storms. The wind is heard in the mountain. The torrent pours down the rock. No hut receives me from the rain; forlorn on the hill of winds!

Rise, moon! from behind thy clouds. Stars of the night arise! Lead me, some light, to the place where my love rests from the chase alone! his bow near him, unstrung; his dogs panting around [10] him. But here I must sit alone, by the rock of the mossy stream. The stream and the wind roar aloud. I hear not the voice of my love! Why delays my Salgar, why the chief of the hill his promise? Here is the rock, and here the tree! here is the roaring stream! Thou didst promise with night to be here. Ah! whither is my Salgar gone? With thee I would fly, from my father; with thee from my [20] brother of pride. Our races have long been foes; we are not foes, O Salgar!

Cease a little while, O wind! stream, be thou silent a while! let my voice be heard around. Let my wanderer hear me! Salgar! it is Colma who calls. Here is the tree, and the rock. Salgar, my love! I am here. Why delayest thou thy coming? Lo! the calm moon comes forth. The flood is bright in the vale. The [30] rocks are grey on the steep. I see him not on the brow. His dogs come not before him, with tidings of his near approach. Here I must sit alone.

From CARTHON

OSSIAN'S ADDRESS TO THE SUN

O thou that rollest above, round as the shield of my fathers! Whence are thy beams, O sun! thy everlasting light? Thou comest forth, in thy awful beauty; the stars hide themselves in the sky; the moon, cold and pale, sinks in the western wave. But thou thyself movest alone: who can be a companion of thy course? The oaks of the mountains fall: the mountains themselves decay with years; [10] the ocean shrinks and grows again: the moon herself is lost in heaven; but thou art for ever the same; rejoicing in the brightness of thy course. When the world is dark with tempests; when thunder rolls, and lightning flies; thou lookest in thy beauty from the clouds, and laughest at the storm. But to Ossian, thou lookest in vain; for he beholds thy beams no more; whether thy yellow hair [20] flows on the eastern clouds, or thou tremblest at the gates of the west. But thou art, perhaps, like me, for a season; thy years will have an end. Thou shalt sleep in thy clouds, careless of the voice of the morning. Exult then, O sun! in the strength of thy youth: Age is dark and unlovely; it is like the glimmering light of the moon, when it shines through broken clouds, and the mist is on the [30] hills; the blast of the north is on the plain; the traveller shrinks in the midst of his journey.

ROBERT FERGUSON (1750-1774)

THE DAFT DAYS

Now mirk December's dowie¹ face
Glowrs ower the rigs² wi' sour grimace,
While, thro' his minimum of space,

The bleer-eyed sun,
Wi' blinkin light and stealing pace, 5
His race doth run.

From naked groves nae birdie sings;
To shepherd's pipe nae hillock rings;
The breeze nae odorous flavor brings

From Borean cave; 10
And dwynin³ Nature droops her wings,
Wi' visage grave.

¹ dreary.

² fields.

³ pining.

Mankind but scanty pleasure glean
 Frae snawy hill or barren plain,
 Whan Winter, 'midst his nipping train, 15
 Wi' frozen spear,
 Sends drift ovr a' his bleak domain,
 And guides¹ the weir.²

Auld Reikie!³ thou'rt the canty⁴ hole,
 A bield⁵ for mony a caldrife⁶ soul, 20
 Wha snugly at thine ingle⁷ loll,
 Baith warm and couth;⁸
 While round they gar⁹ the bicker¹⁰ roll
 To weet their mouth.

When merry Yule-day comes, I trow, 25
 You'll scantlins¹¹ find a hungry mou;¹²
 Sma' are our cares, our stamacks fou
 O' gusty gear,¹³
 And kickshaws,¹⁴ strangers to our view,
 Sin' fairn-year.¹⁵ 30

Ye browster¹⁶ wives! now busk¹⁷ ye bra,¹⁸
 And fling your sorrows far awa';
 Then, come and gie's the tither blaw¹⁹
 Of reaming²⁰ ale,
 Mair precious than the Well of Spa, 35
 Our hearts to heal.

Then, tho' at odds wi' a' the warl',
 Amang oursell we'll never quarrel;
 Tho' Discord gie a cankered snarl
 To spoil our glee, 40
 As lang's there's pith²¹ into the barrel
 We'll drink and 'gree.

Fiddlers! your pins in temper fix,
 And roset²² weel your fiddlesticks,
 But banish vile Italian tricks 45
 From out your quorum,
 Nor *fortes* wi' *pianos* mix—
 Gie's *Tullochgorum*.

For nought can cheer the heart sae weel
 As can a canty²³ Highland reel; 50
 It even vivifies the heel
 To skip and dance:
 Lifeless is he wha canna feel
 Its influence.

Let mirth abound; let social cheer 55
 Invest the dawning of the year;
 Let blithesome innocence appear
 To crown our joy:
 Nor envy, wi' sarcastic sneer,
 Our bliss destroy. 60

And thou, great god of *aqua vitæ!*
 Wha sways the empire of this city—
 When fou²⁴ we're sometimes capernoity²⁵—
 Be thou prepared
 To hedge us frae that black banditti, 65
 The City Guard.

THOMAS CHATTERTON (1752–1770)

BRISTOWE TRAGEDIE;

OR, THE DETHE OF SYR CHARLES
 BAWDIN

The feathered songster chaunticleer
 Han²⁶ wounde hys bugle horne,
 And tolde the earlie villager
 The commynge of the morne:

Kynge Edward sawe the ruddie streakes 5
 Of lyghte eclipse the greie;
 And herde the raven's crokyng throte
 Proclayme the fated daie.

"Thou'rt righte," quod hee, "for, by the
 Godde
 That syttes enthroned on hyghe! 10
 Charles Bawdin, and hys fellowes twaine,
 To-daie shall surelie die."

Thenne wythe a jugge of nappy ale
 Hys knyghtes dydd onne hymm waite; 15
 "Goe tell the traytour, thatt to-daie
 Hee leaves thys mortall state."

Sir Canterlone thenne bendedd lowe,
 With harte brymm-fulle of woe;
 Hee journeyed to the castle-gate,
 And to Syr Charles dydd goe. 20

Butt whenne hee came, hys children
 twaine,
 And eke hys lovyng wyfe,
 Wythe brinie tears dydd wet the floore,
 For goode Syr Charleses lyfe.

²⁴ drunk.

²⁵ ill-natured.

²⁶ has.

¹ governs. ² mill-dam. ³ Edinburgh ("Old Sooty").

⁴ snug. ⁵ shelter. ⁶ freezing. ⁷ fireside.

⁸ comfortable. ⁹ make. ¹⁰ bowl.

¹¹ scarcely. ¹² mouth. ¹³ savory food. ¹⁴ delicacies.

¹⁵ long ago. ¹⁶ brewer. ¹⁷ dress yourselves.

¹⁸ finely. ¹⁹ draught. ²⁰ foaming.

²¹ anything left. ²² rosin. ²³ jolly.

"O goode Syr Charles!" sayd Canterlone,
 "Badde tydyngs I doe brynge." 26
 "Speke boldlie, manne," sayd brave Syr
 Charles,
 "Whatte says the traytor kyng?"

"I greeve to telle; before yonne sonne
 Does fromme the welkin flye, 30
 Hee hathe uppon hys honnour sworne,
 Thatt thou shalt surelie die."

"Wee all must die," quod brave Syr
 Charles;
 "Of thatte I'm not affearde;
 Whatte bootes to lyve a little space? 35
 Thanke Jesu, I'm prepared;

"Butt telle thye kyng, for myne hee's not,
 I'd sooner die to-daie
 Thanne lyve hys slave, as manie are,
 Though I shoulde lyve for aie." 40

Thenne Canterlone hee dydd goe out,
 To telle the maior straitte
 To gett all thynges ynne reddyness
 For goode Syr Charles's fate.

Thenne Maisterr Canynge saughte the
 kyng, 45
 And felle down onne hys knee;
 "I'm come," quod hee, "unto your grace
 To move your clemencye."

Thenne quod the kyng, "Youre tale
 speke out,
 You have been much oure friende; 50
 Whatever youre request may bee,
 Wee wylle to ytte attende."

"My nobile leige! alle my request,
 Ys for a nobile knyghte,
 Who, though may hap hee has donne
 wronge, 55
 Hee thoughte ytte¹ style was ryghte:

"He has a spouse and children twaine,
 Alle rewyned² are for aie;
 Yff that you are resolved to lett
 Charles Bawdin die to-dai." 60

"Speke not of such a traytour vile,"
 The kyng ynne furie sayde;
 "Before the evening starre doth sheene,³
 Bawdin shall loose hys hedde:

"Justice does loudlie for hym calle, 65
 And hee shalle have hys meede:
 Speke, Maister Canynge! Whatte thyng
 else
 Att present doe you neede?"

"My nobile leige!" goode Canynge sayde,
 "Leave justice to our Godde, 70
 And laye the yronne rule asyde;
 Be thyne the olyve rodde.

"Was Godde to serche our hertes and
 reines,
 The best were synners grete;
 Christ's vycarr only knowes ne synne, 75
 Ynne alle thys mortall state.

"Lett mercie rule thye infante reigne,
 'Twyllle faste⁴ thye crowne fulle sure;
 From race to race thye familie
 Alle sov'reigns shall endure: 80

"But yff wythe bloode and slaughter thou
 Beginne thy infante reigne,
 Thy crowne upponne thy childrennes
 brows
 Wylle never long remayne."

"Canynge, awaie! thys traytour vile 85
 Has scorned my power and mee;
 Howe canst thou then for such a manne
 Entreate my clemencye?"

"Mie nobile leige! the trulie brave
 Wylle val'rous actions prize; 90
 Respect a brave and nobile mynde,
 Although ynne enemies."

"Canynge, awaie! By Godde ynne Heav'n
 Thatt dydd mee beinge gyve,
 I wylle nott taste a bitt of breade 95
 Whilst thys Syr Charles dothe lyve.

"Bie Marie, and alle Seinctes ynne
 Heav'n,
 Thys sunne shall be hys laste,"
 Thenne Canynge dropt a brinie teare,
 And from the presence paste.⁵ 100

With herte brymm-fulle of gnawynge
 grief,
 Hee to Syr Charles dydd goe,
 And sat hymm downe upponne a stoole,
 And teares beganne to flowe.

¹ it.² ruined.³ shine.⁴ secure.⁵ passed.

"Wee all must die," quod brave Syr
Charles; 105
"Whatte bootes ytte howe or whenne;
Dethe ys the sure, the certaine fate
Of all wee mortall menne.

"Saye why, my friende, thie honest soule
Runns overr att thyne eye; 110
Is ytte for my most welcome doome
Thatt thou dost child-lyke crye?"

Quod godlie Canynge, "I doe weepe,
Thatt thou soe soone must dye,
And leave thy sonnes and helpless
wyfe; 115
'Tys thys thatt wettes myne eye."

"Thenne drie the tears thatt out thyne eye
From godlie fountaines sprynge;
Dethe I despise, and alle the power
Of Edward, traytour kynge. 120

"Whan through the tyrant's welcom
means
I shall resigne my lyfe,
The Godde I serve wylle soone provyde
For bothe mye sonnes and wyfe.

"Before I sawe the lyghtsome sunne, 125
Thys was appointed mee;
Shall mortall manne repyne or grudge
What Godde ordeynes to bee?

"Howe oft ynne battaile have I stooode,
Whan thousands dyed arounde; 130
Whan smokyng streemes of crimson
bloode
Imbrewed the fattened ground:

"Howe dydd I knowe thatt ev'ry darte,
That cutte the airie waie,
Myghte nott fynde passage toe my harte,
And close myne eyes for aie? 136

"And shall I nowe, forr feere of dethe,
Looke wanne and bee dysmayde?
Ne! fromm my herte flie childyshe feere,
Bee alle the manne displayed. 140

"Ah! goddelyke Henrie! Godde forefende,
And garde thee and thy sonne,
Yff 'tis hys wylle; but yff 'tis nott,
Why thenne hys wylle bee donne.

"My honest friende, my faulte has beene
To serve Godde and mye prynce; 146
And thatt I no tyme-server am,
My dethe wylle soone convynce.

"Ynne Londonne citye was I borne,
Of parents of grete note; 150
My fadre dydd a nobile armes
Emblazon onne hys cote:

"I make ne doubtte butt hee ys gone
Where soone I hope to goe;
Where wee for ever shall bee blest, 155
From oute the reech of woe.

"Hee taughte mee justice and the laws
Wyth pitie to unite;
And eke hee taughte mee howe to knowe
The wrong cause fromm the ryghte: 160

"Hee taughte mee wyth a prudent hande
To feede the hungrie poore,
Ne lett mye sarvants dryve awaie
The hungrie fromme my doore:

"And none can saye butt alle mye lyfe 165
I have hys wordyes kept;
And summed the actyonns of the daie
Eche nyghte before I slept.

"I have a spouse, goe aske of her
Yff I defyled her bedde? 170
I have a kynge, and none can laie
Black treason onne my hedde.

"Ynne Lent, and onne the holie eve,
Fromm fleshe I dydd refrayne:
Whie should I thenne appeare dismayed
To leave thys worlde of payne? 176

"Ne, hapless Henrie! I rejoyce,
I shall ne see thy dethe;
Moste willinglie ynne thy just cause
Doe I resign my brethe. 180

"Oh, fickle people! rewyned londe!
Thou wylt kenne¹ peace ne moe;²
Whyle Richard's sonnes exalt themselves,
Thye brookes wythe bloude wylle flowe.

"Saie, were ye tyred of godlie peace, 185
And godlie Henrie's reigne,
Thatt you dyd choppe³ youre easie daies
For those of bloude and payne?

¹ know.² more.³ exchange.

"Whatte though I onne a sledde be
drawne,
And mangled by a hynde,¹ 190
I doe defe the traytor's pow'r,
Hee can ne harm my mynd;

"Whatte though, uphoisted onne a pole,
Mye lymbes shall rotte ynne ayre,
And ne ryche monument of brasse 195
Charles Bawdin's name shall bear;

"Yett ynne the holie booke above,
Whyche tyme can't eate awaie,
There wythe the servants of the Lord
Mye name shall lyve for aie. 200

"Thenne welcome dethe! for lyfe eterne
I leave thys mortall lyfe:
Farewell, vayne world, and alle that's
deare,
Mye sonnes and lovyng wyfe!

"Nowe dethe as welcome to mee comes, 205
As e'er the moneth of Maie;
Nor woulde I even wyshe to lyve,
Wyth my dere wyfe to staie."

Quod Canynge, "'Tys a goodlie thyng
To bee prepared to die; 210
And from thys world of peyne and grefe
To Godde ynne Heav'n to flie."

And nowe the belle began to tolle,
And claryonnes to sound;
Syr Charles hee herde the horses feete 215
A-prancing onne the grounde:

And just before the officers
His lovyng wyfe came ynne,
Weepyng unfeigned teeres of woe,
Wythe loude and dysmalle dynne. 220

"Sweet Florence! nowe I praie forbere,
Ynne quiet lett mee die;
Praie Godd thatt ev'ry Christian soule
Maye looke onne dethe as I.

"Sweet Florence! why these brinie teers?
Theye washe my soule awaie, 226
And almost make mee wyshe for lyfe,
Wyth thee, sweete dame, to staie.

"'Tys butt a journie I shalle goe
Untoe the lande of blysse; 230
Nowe, as a prooffe of husbände's love,
Receive thys holie kysse."

¹ slave.

Thenne Florence, fault'ring ynne her saie,
Tremblyng these wordyes spoke,
"Ah, cruele Edward! bloudie kynge! 235
Mye herte ys welle nyghe broke:

"Ah, sweete Syr Charles! why wylt thou
goe,
Wythoute thye lovyng wyfe?
The cruelle axe thatt cuttes thy necke,
Ytte eke shall ende mye lyfe." 240

And nowe the officers came ynne
To bryng Syr Charles awaie,
Whoe turnedd toe hys loyvng wyfe,
And thus to her dydd saie:

"I goe to lyfe, and nott to dethe; 245
Truste thou ynne Godde above,
And teache thy sonnes to feare the Lorde,
And ynne theyre hertes hym love:

"Teache them to runne the nobile race
Thatt I theyre fader runne; 250
Florence! shou'd dethe thee take—adieu!
Yee officers, leade onne."

Thenne Florence raved as anie madde,
And dydd her tresses tere;
"Oh, staie, mye husbände, lorde, and
lyfe!" 255
Syr Charles thenne dropt a teare.

"Tyll tyredd oute wythe ravyngs loude,
Shee fellen² onne the flore;
Syr Charles exerted alle hys myghte,
And marched fromm oute the dore. 260

Uponne a sledde hee mounted thenne,
Wythe lookes full brave and swete;
Lookes thatt enshone³ ne more concern
Thanne anie ynne the strete.

Before hym went the council-menne, 265
Ynne scarlett robes and golde,
And tassils spanglyng ynne the sunne,
Muche glorious to beholde:

The Freers of Seincte Augustyne next
Appered to the syghte, 270
Alle cladd ynne homelie russett weedes,
Of godlie monkysh plyghte:

² fell.³ displayed.

Ynne diffraunt partes a godlie psaume
 Moste sweetlie theye dydd chaunt;
 Behynde theyre backes syx mynstrelles
 came, 275
 Who tuned the strunge¹ bataunt.

Thenne fyve-and-twentye archers came;
 Echone the bowe dydd bende,
 From rescue of Kynge Henrie's friends
 Syr Charles forr to defend. 280

Bolde as a lyon came Syr Charles,
 Drawne onne a cloth-layde sledde,
 Bye two blacke stedes ynne trappynge
 white,
 Wyth plumes uponne theyre hedde:

Behynde hym five-and-twenty moe 285
 Of archers stronge and stoute,
 Wyth bended bowe echone ynne hande,
 Marched ynne goodlie route;

Seincte Jameses Freers marched next,
 Echone hys parte dydd chaunt; 290
 Behynde theyre backes syx mynstrelles
 came,
 Who tuned the strunge bataunt:

Thenne came the maior and eldermenne,
 Ynne clothe of scarlett deck't;
 And theyre attendynge menne echone, 295
 Lyke Easterne princes trickt:

And after them, a multitude
 Of citizenns dydd thronge;
 The wyndowes were alle fulle of heddes,
 As hee dydd passe alonge. 300

And whenne hee came to the hyghe
 crosse,
 Syr Charles dydd turne and saie,
 "O Thou, thatt savest manne fromme
 synne,
 Washe mye soule clean thys daie!"

Att the grete mynster² wyndowe sat 305
 The kynge ynne myckle³ state,
 To see Charles Bawdin goe alonge
 To hys most welcom fate.

Soone as the sledde drewe nyghe enowe,
 Thatt Edwarde hee myghte heare, 310

The brave Syr Charles hee dydd stande
 uppe,
 And thus hys words declare:

"Thou seest me, Edwarde! traytour vile!
 Exposed to infamie;
 Butt bee assured, disloyall manne! 315
 I'm greater nowe thanne thee.

"Bye foule proceedynge, murdre, bloude,
 Thou wearest nowe a crowne;
 And hast appoynted mee to die,
 By power nott thyne owne. 320

"Thou thynkest I shall die to-daie;
 I have beene dede 'till nowe,
 And soone shall lyve to weare a crowne
 For aie uponne my browe:

"Whylst thou, perhapps, for som few
 yeares, 325
 Shalt rule thys fickle lande,
 To lett them knowe howe wyde the rule
 "Twixt kynge and tyrant hande:

"Thye pow'r unjust, thou traytour slave!
 Shall falle onne thye owne hedde"— 330
 Fromm out of hearyng of the kynge
 Departed thenne the sledde.

Kynge Edwarde's soule rushed to hys face,
 Hee turned hys hedde awaie,
 And to hys broder Gloucester 335
 Hee thus dydd speke and saie:

"To hym that soe much dreaded dethe
 Ne ghastlie terrors brynge,
 Beholde the manne! hee spake the truthe,
 Hee's greater thanne a kynge!" 340

"Soe let hym die!" Duke Richard sayde;
 "And maye echone oure foes
 Bende downe theyre neckes to bloudie axe
 And feede the carryon crows."

And nowe the horses gentlie drewe 345
 Syr Charles uppe the hyghe hylle;
 The axe dydd glysterr ynne the sunne,
 His pretious bloude to spylle.

Syrr Charles dydd uppe the scaffold goe,
 As uppe a gilded carre 350
 Of victorye, bye val'rous chiefs
 Gayned ynne the bloudie warre:

¹ stringed.² cathedral.³ great.

And to the people hee dyd saie,
 "Beholde you see mee dye,
 For servynge loyally mye kynge, 355
 Mye kynge most rightfullie.

"As longe as Edward rules thys land,
 Ne quiet you wyll knowe:
 Your sonnes and husbandes shalle bee
 slayne,
 And brookes wythe bloude shall flowe.

"You leave youre goode and lawfull
 kynge, 361
 Whenne ynne adversitey;
 Lyke mee, untoe the true cause stycke,
 And for the true cause dye."

Thenne hee, wyth preestes, uponne hys
 knees, 365
 A pray'r to Godde dyd make,
 Beseechyng hym unto hymselfe
 Hys partyng soule to take.

Thenne, kneelyng downe, hee layd hys
 hedde
 Most seemlie onne the blocke; 370
 Whyche fromme hys bodie fayre at once
 The able heddes-manne stroke:

And oute the bloude beganne to flowe,
 And rounde the scaffold twyne;
 And teares, enow to washe 't awaie, 375
 Dydd flowe fromme each mann's eyne.

The bloudie axe hys bodie fayre
 Ynnto foure parties cutte;
 And ev'rye parte, and eke hys hedde,
 Uponne a pole was putte. 380

One parte dydd rotte onne Kynwulph-
 hylle,
 One onne the mynster-tower,
 And one from off the castle-gate
 The crowen dydd devoure;

The other onne Seyncte Powle's goode
 gate, 385
 A dreery spectacle;
 Hys hedde was placed onne the hyghe
 crosse,
 Ynne hyghe-streete most nobile.

Thus was the ende of Bawdin's fate:
 Godde prosper longe oure kynge, 390
 And grante hee maye, wyth Bawdin's
 soule,
 Ynne heav'n Godd's mercie synge!

MYNSTRELLES SONGE

From ÆLLA: A TRAGYCAL ENTERLUDE

O, synge untoe mie roundelaie!
 O, droppe the brynne teare wythe mee!
 Daunce ne moe atte hallie daie,
 Lycke a reynynge¹ ryver bee;
 Mie love ys dedde, 5
 Gon to hys death-bedde,
 Al under the wyllowe tree.

Blacke hys cryne² as the wyntere nyghte,
 Whyte hys rode³ as the sommer snowe,
 Rodde⁴ hys face as the morynng lyghte,
 Cale⁵ he lyes ynne the grave belowe; 11
 Mie love ys dedde,
 Gon to hys death-bedde,
 Al under the wyllowe tree.

Swote⁶ hys tyngue as the throstles note, 15
 Quicke ynn daunce as thoughte canne
 bee,
 Dofte hys taboure, codgelle stote,
 O! hee lyes bie the wyllowe tree:
 Mie love ys dedde,
 Gonne to hys death-bedde, 20
 Alle underre the wyllowe tree.

Harker! the ravenne flappes hys wynges,
 In the briered delle belowe;
 Harker! the dethe-owle loude dothe synge,
 To the nyghte-mares as heie⁷ goe; 25
 Mie love ys dedde,
 Gonne to hys death-bedde,
 Al under the wyllowe tree.

See! the whyte moone sheenes onne hie;
 Whyterre ys mie true loves shroude; 30
 Whyterre yanne⁸ the morynng skie,
 Whyterre yanne the evenynge cloude;
 Mie love ys dedde,
 Gon to hys death-bedde,
 Al under the wyllowe tree. 35

Heere, uponne mie true loves grave,
 Schalle the baren fleurs be layde,
 Nee one hallie Seyncte to save
 Al the celness⁹ of a mayde. 40
 Mie love ys dedde,
 Gonne to hys death-bedde,
 Alle under the wyllowe tree.

¹ running. ² hair. ³ skin. ⁴ ruddy. ⁵ cold.
⁶ sweet. ⁷ they. ⁸ than. ⁹ coldness.

Wythe mie hondes I'lle dente¹ the brieres
 Rounde his hallie corse to gre,²
 Ouphante³ fairie, lyghte youre fyres, 45
 Heere mie boddie stylee schalle bee.

Mie love ys dedde,
 Gon to hys death-bedde,
 Al under the wyllowe tree.

Comme, wythe acorne-coppe and thorne,
 Drayne mie hartys blodde awaie: 51
 Lyfe and all yttys goode I scorne,
 Daunce bie nete, or feaste by daie.

Mie love ys dedde,
 Gon to hys death-bedde, 55
 Al under the wyllowe tree.

Waterre wythes, crownde wythe reytes,⁴
 Bere mee to yer leathalle⁵ tyde.
 I die; I comme; mie true love waytes.—
 Thos the damselle spake, and dyed. 60

WILLIAM COWPER (1731–1800)

WALKING WITH GOD. Gen. v. 24

From OLNEY HYMNS

Oh! for a closer walk with God,
 A calm and heavenly frame;
 A light to shine upon the road
 That leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew 5
 When first I saw the Lord?
 Where is the soul-refreshing view
 Of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
 How sweet their memory still! 10
 But they have left an aching void
 The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
 Sweet messenger of rest!
 I hate the sins that made thee mourn 15
 And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
 Whate'er that idol be,
 Help me to tear it from thy throne,
 And worship only thee. 20

So shall my walk be close with God,
 Calm and serene my frame;
 So purer light shall mark the road
 That leads me to the Lamb.

ON THE LOSS OF THE ROYAL GEORGE

Toll for the brave!
 The brave that are no more!
 All sunk beneath the wave,
 Fast by their native shore!

Eight hundred of the brave, 5
 Whose courage well was tried,
 Had made the vessel heel,
 And laid her on her side.

A land-breeze shook the shrouds,
 And she was upset; 10
 Down went the *Royal George*,
 With all her crew complete.

Toll for the brave!
 Brave Kempenfelt is gone;
 His last sea-fight is fought; 15
 His work of glory done.

It was not in the battle;
 No tempest gave the shock;
 She sprang no fatal leak;
 She ran upon no rock. 20

His sword was in its sheath;
 His fingers held the pen,
 When Kempenfelt went down
 With twice four hundred men.

Weigh the vessel up, 25
 Once dreaded by our foes!
 And mingle with our cup
 The tears that England owes.

Her timbers yet are sound,
 And she may float again 30
 Full charged with England's thunder,
 And plough the distant main.

But Kempenfelt is gone,
 His victories are o'er;
 And he and his eight hundred 35
 Shall plough the wave no more.

¹ fasten.
⁴ reeds.

² grow.

³ elfin.
⁵ deadly.

THE TASK

From BOOK I

There often wanders one, whom better days
 Saw better clad, in cloak of satin trimmed
 With lace, and hat with splendid riband
 bound. 536
 A serving-maid was she, and fell in love
 With one who left her, went to sea, and
 died.
 Her fancy followed him through foaming
 waves
 To distant shores, and she would sit and
 weep 540
 At what a sailor suffers; fancy too,
 Delusive most where warmest wishes are,
 Would oft anticipate his glad return,
 And dream of transports she was not to
 know.
 She heard the doleful tidings of his death,
 And never smiled again. And now she
 roams 546
 The dreary waste; there spends the live-
 long day,
 And there, unless when charity forbids,
 The livelong night. A tattered apron
 hides,
 Worn as a cloak, and hardly hides, a
 gown 550
 More tattered still; and both but ill con-
 ceal
 A bosom heaved with never-ceasing sighs.
 She begs an idle pin of all she meets,
 And hoards them in her sleeve; but need-
 ful food,
 Though pressed with hunger oft, or come-
 lier clothes, 555
 Though pinched with cold, asks never.—
 Kate is crazed.
 I see a column of slow-rising smoke
 O'ertop the lofty wood that skirts the wild.
 A vagabond and useless tribe there eat
 Their miserable meal. A kettle, slung 560
 Between two poles upon a stick transverse,
 Receives the morsel; flesh obscene of dog,
 Or vermin, or, at best, of cock purloined
 From his accustomed perch. Hard-faring
 race!
 They pick their fuel out of every hedge, 565
 Which, kindled with dry leaves, just saves
 unquenched
 The spark of life. The sportive wind
 blows wide

Their fluttering rags, and shows a tawny
 skin,
 The vellum of the pedigree they claim.
 Great skill have they in palmistry, and
 more 570
 To conjure clean away the gold they touch,
 Conveying worthless dross into its place;
 Loud when they beg, dumb only when they
 steal.
 Strange! that a creature rational, and cast
 In human mould, should brutalize by
 choice 575
 His nature, and, though capable of arts
 By which the world might profit and him-
 self,
 Self-banished from society, prefer
 Such squalid sloth to honorable toil!
 Yet even these, though, feigning sickness
 oft, 580
 They swathe the forehead, drag the limp-
 ing limb,
 And vex their flesh with artificial sores,
 Can change their whine into a mirthful
 note
 When safe occasion offers; and with dance,
 And music of the bladder and the bag, 585
 Beguile their woes, and make the woods
 resound.
 Such health and gaiety of heart enjoy
 The houseless rovers of the sylvan world;
 And breathing wholesome air, and wander-
 ing much,
 Need other physic none to heal the effects
 Of loathsome diet, penury, and cold. 591
 * * * * *

From BOOK II

Oh for a lodge in some vast wilderness,
 Some boundless contiguity of shade,
 Where rumor of oppression and deceit,
 Of unsuccessful or successful war,
 Might never reach me more! My ear is
 pained, 5
 My soul is sick with every day's report
 Of wrong and outrage with which earth is
 filled.
 There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart,
 It does not feel for man; the natural bond
 Of brotherhood is severed as the flax 10
 That falls asunder at the touch of fire.
 He finds his fellow guilty of a skin
 Not colored like his own, and, having
 power

To enforce the wrong, for such a worthy
cause

Dooms and devotes him as his lawful
prey. 15

Lands intersected by a narrow frith

Abhor each other. Mountains interposed

Make enemies of nations who had else

Like kindred drops been mingled into one.

Thus man devotes¹ his brother, and de-
stroy; 20

And worse than all, and most to be de-
plored,

As human nature's broadest, foulest blot,

Chains him, and tasks him, and exacts his
sweat

With stripes that Mercy, with a bleeding
heart,

Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast. 25

Then what is man? And what man
seeing this,

And having human feelings, does not
blush

And hang his head, to think himself a
man?

I would not have a slave to till my ground,

To carry me, to fan me while I sleep, 30

And tremble when I wake, for all the
wealth

That sinews bought and sold have ever
earned.

No: dear as freedom is, and in my heart's

Just estimation prized above all price,

I had much rather be myself the slave 35

And wear the bonds, than fasten them on
him.

We have no slaves at home: then why
abroad?

And they themselves once ferried o'er the
wave

That parts us, are emancipate and loosed.

Slaves cannot breathe in England; if their
lungs 40

Receive our air, that moment they are
free;

They touch our country, and their shackles
fall.

That's noble, and bespeaks a nation proud

And jealous of the blessing. Spread it
then,

And let it circulate through every vein 45

Of all your empire; that where Britain's
power

Is felt, mankind may feel her mercy too.

¹ vows to destruction.

From BOOK V

There shame to manhood, and opprobri-
ous more

To France than all her losses and defeats

Old or of later date, by sea or land, 381

Her house of bondage worse than that of
old

Which God avenged on Pharaoh—the
Bastile!

Ye horrid towers, the abode of broken
hearts,

Ye dungeons and ye cages of despair, 385

That monarchs have supplied from age to
age

With music such as suits their sovereign
ears—

The sighs and groans of miserable men,
There's not an English heart that would

not leap

To hear that ye were fallen at last, to
know 390

That even our enemies, so oft employed
In forging chains for us, themselves were

free:

For he that values liberty, confines

His zeal for her predominance within

No narrow bounds; her cause engages
him 395

Wherever pleaded; 'tis the cause of man.

ON THE RECEIPT OF MY
MOTHER'S PICTURE

Oh that those lips had language! Life
has passed

With me but roughly since I heard thee
last.

Those lips are thine—thy own sweet
smile I see,

The same that oft in childhood solaced me;

Voice only fails, else how distinct they say,

"Grieve not, my child, chase all thy fears
away!" 6

The meek intelligence of those dear eyes

(Blest be the art that can immortalise,

The art that baffles Time's tyrannic
claim

To quench it) here shines on me still the
same. 10

Faithful remembrancer of one so dear,

O welcome guest, though unexpected here!

Who bidst me honor with an artless song,

Affectionate, a mother lost so long,

I will obey, not willingly alone, 15
 But gladly, as the precept were her own:
 And, while that face renews my filial grief,
 Fancy shall weave a charm for my relief,
 Shall steep me in Elysian reverie,
 A momentary dream that thou art she. 20
 My mother! when I learned that thou
 wast dead,
 Say, wast thou conscious of the tears I
 shed?
 Hovered thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son,
 Wretch even then, life's journey just
 begun?
 Perhaps thou gavest me, though unfelt,
 a kiss: 25
 Perhaps a tear, if souls can weep in bliss—
 Ah, that maternal smile! It answers—
 'Yes.
 I heard the bell tolled on thy burial day,
 I saw the hearse that bore thee slow away,
 And turning from my nursery window,
 drew 30
 A long, long sigh, and wept a last adieu!
 But was it such?—It was.—Where thou
 art gone
 Adieu and farewells are a sound unknown.
 May I but meet thee on that peaceful
 shore,
 The parting word shall pass my lips no
 more! 35
 Thy maidens, grieved themselves at my
 concern,
 Oft gave me promise of thy quick return.
 What ardently I wished I long believed,
 And, disappointed still, was still de-
 ceived.
 By expectation every day beguiled, 40
 Dupe of *to-morrow* even from a child.
 Thus many a sad to-morrow came and
 went,
 Till, all my stock of infant sorrow spent,
 I learned at last submission to my lot;
 But, though I less deplored thee, ne'er for-
 got. 45
 Where once we dwelt our name is
 heard no more,
 Children not thine have trod my nursery
 floor;
 And where the gardener Robin, day by day,
 Drew me to school along the public way,
 Delighted with my bauble coach, and
 wrapped 50
 In scarlet mantle warm, and velvet
 capped,

'Tis now become a history little known,
 That once we called the pastoral house
 our own.
 Short-lived possession! but the record fair
 That memory keeps, of all thy kindness
 there, 55
 Still outlives many a storm that has ef-
 faced
 A thousand other themes less deeply
 traced.
 Thy nightly visits to my chamber made,
 That thou mightst know me safe and
 warmly laid;
 Thy morning bounties ere I left my home,
 The biscuit, or confectionary plum; 61
 The fragrant waters on my cheeks be-
 stowed
 By thy own hand, till fresh they shone and
 glowed;
 All this, and more endearing still than
 all,
 Thy constant flow of love, that knew no
 fall, 65
 Ne'er roughened by those cataracts and
 brakes
 That humor interposed too often makes;
 All this still legible in memory's page,
 And still to be so to my latest age,
 Adds joy to duty, makes me glad to pay 70
 Such honors to thee as my numbers may;
 Perhaps a frail memorial, but sincere,
 Not scorned in heaven, though little
 noticed here.
 Could Time, his flight reversed, restore
 the hours,
 When, playing with thy vesture's tissued
 flowers, 75
 The violet, the pink, and jessamine,
 I pricked them into paper with a pin
 (And thou wast happier than myself the
 while,
 Would softly speak, and stroke my head
 and smile),
 Could those few pleasant days again
 appear, 80
 Might one wish bring them, would I wish
 them here?
 I would not trust my heart—the dear de-
 light
 Seems so to be desired, perhaps I might.—
 But no—what here we call our life is such,
 So little to be loved, and thou so much,
 That I should ill requite thee to constrain
 Thy unbound spirit into bonds again.

Thou, as a gallant bark from Albion's
 coast 88
 (The storms all weathered and the ocean
 crossed)
 Shoots into port at some well-havened
 isle, 90
 Where spices breathe, and brighter seasons
 smile,
 There sits quiescent on the floods that
 show
 Her beauteous form reflected clear below,
 While airs impregnated with incense play
 Around her, fanning light her streamers
 gay; 95
 So thou, with sails how swift! hast reached
 the shore,
 "Where tempests never beat nor billows
 roar."
 And thy loved consort on the dangerous
 tide
 Of life long since has anchored by thy
 side.
 But me, scarce hoping to attain that rest,
 Always from port withheld, always dis-
 tressed— 101
 Me howling blasts drive devious, tempest
 tossed,
 Sails ripped, seams opening wide, and
 compass lost,
 And day by day some current's thwarting
 force
 Sets me more distant from a prosperous
 course. 105
 Yet, oh, the thought that thou art safe,
 and he!
 That thought is joy, arrive what may
 to me.
 My boast is not, that I deduce my birth
 From loins enthroned and rulers of the
 earth;
 But higher far my proud pretensions
 rise— 110
 The son of parents passed into the skies!
 And now, farewell—Time unrevoked has
 run
 His wonted course, yet what I wished is
 done.
 By contemplation's help, not sought in
 vain,
 I seem to have lived my childhood o'er
 again; 115
 To have renewed the joys that once were
 mine,
 Without the sin of violating thine:

And, while the wings of Fancy still are
 free,
 And I can view this mimic show of thee,
 Time has but half succeeded in his theft—
 Thyself removed, thy power to soothe
 me left. 121

SONNET TO MRS. UNWIN

Mary! I want a lyre with other strings,
 Such aid from heaven as some have
 feigned they drew,
 An eloquence scarce given to mortals,
 new,
 And undebased by praise of meaner things!
 That, ere through age or woe I shed my
 wings, 5
 I may record thy worth, with honor
 due,
 In verse as musical as thou art true,
 Verse that immortalizes whom it sings.
 But thou hast little need. There is a book,
 By seraphs writ with beams of heavenly
 light, 10
 On which the eyes of God not rarely look;
 A chronicle of actions just and bright;
 There all thy deeds, my faithful Mary,
 shine,
 And since thou ownest that praise, I spare
 thee mine.

TO MARY

The twentieth year is well-nigh past,
 Since first our sky was overcast;
 Ah, would that this might be the last!
 My Mary!

Thy spirits have a fainter flow, 5
 I see thee daily weaker grow;
 'Twas my distress that brought thee low,
 My Mary!

Thy needles, once a shining store,
 For my sake restless heretofore, 10
 Now rust disused, and shine no more,
 My Mary!

For though thou gladly wouldst fulfil
 The same kind office for me still,
 Thy sight now seconds not thy will, 15
 My Mary!

But well thou playedst the housewife's
part,
And all thy threads with magic art
Have wound themselves about this heart,
My Mary! 20

Thy indistinct expressions seem
Like language uttered in a dream;
Yet me they charm, whate'er the theme,
My Mary!

Thy silver locks, once auburn bright, 25
Are still more lovely in my sight
Than golden beams of orient light,
My Mary!

For, could I view nor them nor thee,
What sight worth seeing could I see? 30
The sun would rise in vain for me,
My Mary!

Partakers of thy sad decline,
Thy hands their little force resign,
Yet, gently pressed, press gently mine, 35
My Mary!

Such feebleness of limbs thou provest,
That now at every step thou movest
Upheld by two, yet still thou lovest,
My Mary! 40

And still to love, though pressed with ill,
In wintry age to feel no chill,
With me is to be lovely still,
My Mary!

But ah! by constant heed I know, 45
How oft the sadness that I show
Transforms thy smiles to looks of woe,
My Mary!

And should my future lot be cast
With much resemblance of the past, 50
Thy worn-out heart will break at last,
My Mary!

THE CASTAWAY

Obscurest night involved the sky,
The Atlantic billows roared,
When such a destined wretch as I,
Washed headlong from on board,
Of friends, of hope, of all bereft, 5
His floating home forever left.

No braver chief could Albion boast
Than he with whom he went,
Nor ever ship left Albion's coast
With warmer wishes sent. 10
He loved them both, but both in vain,
Nor him beheld, nor her again.

Not long beneath the whelming brine,
Expert to swim, he lay;
Nor soon he felt his strength decline, 15
Or courage die away;
But waged with death a lasting strife,
Supported by despair of life.

He shouted: nor his friends had failed
To check the vessel's course, 20
But so the furious blast prevailed,
That, pitiless perforce,
They left their outcast mate behind,
And scudded still before the wind.

Some succor yet they could afford; 25
And such as storms allow,
The cask, the coop, the floated cord,
Delayed not to bestow.
But he (they knew) nor ship nor shore,
Whate'er they gave, should visit more. 30

Nor, cruel as it seemed, could he
Their haste himself condemn,
Aware that flight, in such a sea,
Alone could rescue them;
Yet bitter felt it still to die 35
Deserted, and his friends so nigh.

He long survives, who lives an hour
In ocean, self-upheld;
And so long he, with unspent power,
His destiny repelled; 40
And ever, as the minutes flew,
Entreated help, or cried "Adieu!"

At length, his transient respite past,
His comrades, who before
Had heard his voice in every blast, 45
Could catch the sound no more:
For then, by toil subdued, he drank
The stifling wave, and then he sank.

No poet wept him; but the page
Of narrative sincere, 50
That tells his name, his worth, his age,
Is wet with Anson's tear:
And tears by bards or heroes shed
Alike immortalize the dead.

I therefore purpose not, or dream, 55
 Descanting on his fate,
 To give the melancholy theme
 A more enduring date:
 But misery still delights to trace
 Its semblance in another's case. 60

No voice divine the storm allayed,
 No light propitious shone,
 When, snatched from all effectual aid,
 We perished, each alone:
 But I beneath a rougher sea, 65
 And whelmed in deeper gulfs than he.

ROBERT BURNS (1759–1796)

From LINES TO JOHN LAPRAIK

I am nae poet, in a sense,
 But just a rhymer like by chance, 50
 An' hae to learning nae pretence;
 Yet what the matter?
 Whene'er my Muse does on me glance,
 I jingle at her.

Your critic-folk may cock their nose, 55
 And say, "How can you e'er propose,
 You wha ken hardly verse frae prose,
 To mak a sang?"
 But, by your leaves, my learnèd foes, 60
 Ye're maybe wrang.

What's a' your jargon o' your schools,
 Your Latin names for horns an' stools?
 If honest Nature made you fools,
 What sairs¹ your grammars?
 Ye'd better taen up spades and shoals, 65
 Or knappin-hammers.²

A set o' dull, conceited hashes³
 Confuse their brains in college classes!
 They gang in stirks⁴ and come out asses,
 Plain truth to speak; 70
 An' syne⁵ they think to climb Parnassus
 By dint o' Greek!

Gie me ae⁶ spark o' Nature's fire,
 That's a' the learning I desire;
 Then, tho' I drudge thro' dub⁷ an' mire 75
 At plough or cart,
 My Muse, tho' hamely in attire,
 May touch the heart.

¹ serve. ² sledge-hammers.
⁶ afterwards.

³ idiots. ⁴ oxen.
⁶ one. ⁷ puddle.

THE HOLY FAIR

Upon a simmer⁸ Sunday morn,
 When Nature's face is fair,
 I walkèd forth to view the corn
 An' snuff the caller⁹ air.
 The rising sun owre Galston muirs 5
 Wi' glorious light was glintin,
 The hares were hirplin¹⁰ down the furs,¹¹
 The lav'rocks¹² they were chantin
 Fu' sweet that day.

As lightsomely I glowered¹³ abroad 10
 To see a scene sae gay,
 Three hizzies,¹⁴ early at the road,
 Cam skelpin¹⁵ up the way.
 Twa had manteeles o' dolefu' black,
 But ane wi' lyart¹⁶ lining; 15
 The third, that gaed a wee a-back,
 Was in the fashion shining
 Fu' gay that day.

The twa appeared like sisters twin
 In feature, form, an' claes;¹⁷ 20
 Their visage withered, lang an' thin,
 An' sour as onie slaes.¹⁸
 The third cam up, hap-step-an'-lowp,¹⁹
 As light as onie lambie,
 An' wi' a curchie²⁰ low did stoop, 25
 As soon as e'er she saw me,
 Fu' kind that day.

Wi' bonnet aff, quoth I, "Sweet lass,
 I think ye seem to ken me;
 I'm sure I've seen that bonie face, 30
 But yet I canna name ye."
 Quo' she, an' laughin as she spak,
 An' taks me by the han's,
 "Ye, for my sake, hae gien the feck²¹
 Of a' the Ten Comman's 35
 A screed²² some day.

"My name is Fun—your cronie dear,
 The nearest friend ye hae;
 An' this is Superstition here,
 An' that's Hypocrisy. 40
 I'm gaun to Mauchline Holy Fair,
 To spend an hour in daffin.²³
 Gin²⁴ ye'll go there, yon runkle²⁵ pair,
 We will get famous laughin
 At them this day." 45

⁸ summer. ⁹ fresh. ¹⁰ hopping. ¹¹ furrows.
¹² larks. ¹³ stared. ¹⁴ young women. ¹⁵ hurrying.
¹⁶ grey. ¹⁷ clothes. ¹⁸ sloes.
¹⁹ hop-step-and-jump. ²⁰ courtesy. ²¹ majority.
²² rip. ²³ larking. ²⁴ if. ²⁵ wrinkled.

Quoth I, "Wi' a' my heart, I'll do't:
 I'll get my Sunday's sark¹ on,
 An' meet you on the holy spot;
 Faith, we'se hae fine remarkin'!"
 Then I gaed hame at crowdie-time,² 50
 An' soon I made me ready;
 For roads were clad frae side to side
 Wi' monie a wearie body,
 In droves that day.

Here farmers gash³ in ridin graith⁴ 55
 Gaed hoddin⁵ by their cotters,
 There swankies⁶ young in braw⁷ braid-
 claith
 Are springin owre the gutters.
 The lasses, skelpin⁸ barefit, thrang,⁹
 In silks an' scarlets glitter, 60
 Wi' sweet-milk cheese in monie a whang,¹⁰
 An' farls¹¹ baked wi' butter,
 Fu' crump¹² that day.

When by the plate we set our nose,
 Weel heaped up wi' ha'pence, 65
 A greedy glowr Black Bonnet throws,
 An' we maun draw our tippence.
 Then in we go to see the show:
 On every side they're gath'rin,
 Some carryin dails,¹³ some chairs an'
 stools, 70
 An' some are busy bleth'rin¹⁴
 Right loud that day.

* * * * *

Here some are thinkin on their sins,
 An' some upo' their claes;
 Ane curses feet that fyled¹⁵ his shins,
 Anither sighs an' prays: 85
 On this hand sits a chosen swatch,¹⁶
 Wi' screwed-up, grace-proud faces;
 On that a set o' chaps at watch,
 Thrang winkin on the lasses
 To chairs that day. 90

O happy is that man an' blest!
 (Nae wonder that it pride him!)
 Whase ain dear lass that he likes best,
 Comes clinkin down beside him!
 Wi' arm reposed on the chair back, 95
 He sweetly does compose him;

¹ shirt. ² porridge-time. ³ shrewd. ⁴ attire.
⁵ jogging. ⁶ lusty chaps. ⁷ fine. ⁸ running.
⁹ busy. ¹⁰ large slice. ¹¹ cakes. ¹² crisp.
¹³ planks. ¹⁴ gabbling. ¹⁵ soiled. ¹⁶ sample.

Which by degrees slips round her neck,
 An's loof¹⁷ upon her bosom,
 Unkend that day.

Now a' the congregation o'er 100
 Is silent expectation;
 For Moodie speels¹⁸ the holy door,
 Wi' tidings o' damnation.
 Should Hornie,¹⁹ as in ancient days,
 'Mang sons o' God present him, 105
 The vera sight o' Moodie's face
 To's ain het²⁰ hame had sent him
 Wi' fright that day.

Hear how he clears the points o' faith
 Wi' rattlin an' wi' thumpin! 110
 Now meekly calm, now wild in wrath
 He's stampin an' he's jumpin!
 His lengthened chin, his turned-up snout,
 His eldritch²¹ squeel and gestures,
 Oh, how they fire the heart devout, 115
 Like cantharidian plaisters,
 On sic a day!

But hark! the tent has changed its voice:
 There's peace and rest nae langer;
 For a' the real judges rise, 120
 They canna sit for anger.
 Smith opens out his cauld harangues,
 On practice and on morals;
 An' aff the godly pour in thrangs,
 To gie the jars an' barrels 125
 A lift that day.

What signifies his barren shine
 Of moral powers and reason?
 His English style an' gesture fine
 Are a' clean out o' season. 130
 Like Socrates or Antonine
 Or some auld pagan heathen,
 The *moral man* he does define,
 But ne'er a word o' *faith* in
 That's right that day. 135

In guid time comes an antidote
 Against sic poisoned nostrum;
 For Peebles, frae the water-fit,²²
 Ascends the holy rostrum:
 See, up he's got the word o' God 140
 An' meek an' mim²³ has viewed it,

¹⁷ hand. ¹⁸ ascends. ¹⁹ the devil ²⁰ hot.
²¹ unearthly. ²² river's mouth. ²³ primly.

While Common Sense has ta'en the road,
An's aff, an' up the Cowgate
Fast, fast that day.

Wee Miller niest¹ the guard relieves, 145
An' orthodoxy raibles,²
Tho' in his heart he weel believes
An' thinks it auld wives' fables:
But faith! the birkie³ wants a manse,
So cannilie⁴ he hums them; 150
Altho' his carnal wit an' sense
Like hafilins-wise⁵ o'ercomes him
At times that day.

Now butt an' ben⁶ the change-house⁷ fills
Wi' yill-caup⁸ commentators: 155
Here's cryin out for bakes⁹ an gills,
An' there the pint-stowp¹⁰ clatters;
While thick an' thrang, an' loud an' lang,
Wi' logic an' wi' Scripture,
They raise a din, that in the end 160
Is like to breed a rupture
O' wrath that day.

Leeze me¹¹ on drink! it gies us mair
Than either school or college:
It kindles wit, it waukens lear,¹² 165
It pangs¹³ us fou o' knowledge.
Be't whisky-gill or penny-weep¹⁴,
On onie stronger potion,
It never fails, on drinkin deep,
To kittle¹⁵ up our notion 170
By night or day.

The lads an' lasses, blythely bent
To mind baith saul an' body,
Sit round the table weel content,
An' steer about the toddy. 175
On this ane's dress an' that ane's leuk
They're makin observations;
While some are cozie i' the neuk,¹⁶
An' formin assignations
To meet some day. 180

But now the Lord's ain trumpet touts,
Till a' the hills are rairin,¹⁷
An' echoes back return the shouts—
Black Russell is na spairin.
His piercin words, like Highlan' swords, 185
Divide the joints an' marrow;

His talk o' hell, whare devils dwell,
Our vera "sauls does harrow"
Wi' fright that day.

A vast, unbottomed, boundless pit, 190
Filled fou o' lowin¹⁸ brunstane,¹⁹
Whase ragin flame an' scorchin heat
Wad melt the hardest whun-stane!²⁰
The half-asleep start up wi' fear
An' think they hear it roarin, 195
When presently it does appear
'Twas but some neebor snorin,
Asleep that day.

'Twad be owre lang a tale to tell
How monie stories past, 200
An' how they crowd to the yill,²¹
When they were a' dismist;
How drink gaed round in cogs²² and caups²³
Amang the furms²⁴ an' benches:
An' cheese and bread frae women's laps 205
Was dealt about in lunches
An' dawds²⁵ that day.

In comes a gawsie,²⁶ gash²⁷ guidwife
An' sits down by the fire,
Syne²⁸ draws her kebbuck²⁹ an' her knife;
The lasses they are shy: 211
The auld guidmen about the grace
Frae side to side they bother,
Till some ane by his bonnet lays,
And gi'es them't,³⁰ like a tether, 215
Fu' lang that day.

Waesucks!³¹ for him that gets nae lass,
Or lasses that hae naething!
Sma' need has he to say a grace,
Or melvie³² his braw clathing! 220
O wives, be mindfu' ance yoursel
How bonie lads ye wanted,
An' dinna for a kebbuck-heel³³
Let lasses be affronted
On sic a day! 225

Now Clinkumbell, wi' rattlin tow,³⁴
Begins to jow³⁵ an' croon;
Some swagger hame the best they dow,³⁶
Some wait the afternoon.
At slaps³⁷ the billies³⁸ halt a blink, 230
Till lasses strip their shoon:

¹ next. ² babbles. ³ fellow. ⁴ cunningly. ⁵ partly.
⁶ all through the house. ⁷ tavern.
⁸ ale-cup. ⁹ cakes. ¹⁰ pint-mug. ¹¹ good luck to!
¹² learning. ¹³ packs. ¹⁴ small-beer. ¹⁵ tickle.
¹⁶ corner. ¹⁷ roaring.

¹⁸ flaming. ¹⁹ brimstone. ²⁰ whinstone. ²¹ ale.
²² wooden bowls. ²³ cups.
²⁴ wooden seats. ²⁵ pieces. ²⁶ jolly.
²⁷ clever. ²⁸ then. ²⁹ cheese.
³⁰ gives it to them. ³¹ alas. ³² soil.
³³ cheese-rind. ³⁴ rope. ³⁵ swing.
³⁶ can. ³⁷ gaps in the hedge. ³⁸ young fellows.

Wi' faith an' hope, an' love an' drink,
They're a' in famous tune
For crack¹ that day.

How monie hearts this day converts 235
O' sinners and o' lasses!
Their hearts o' stane,² gin³ night, are gane
As saft as onie flesh is.
There's some are fou o' love divine,
There's some are fou o' brandy; 240
An' monie jobs that day begin,
May end in houghmagandie⁴
Some ither day.

TO A MOUSE

ON TURNING UP HER NEST WITH
THE PLOUGH, NOVEMBER, 1785

Wee, sleekit,⁵ cowrin, tim'rous beastie,
Oh, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty
Wi' bickerin⁶ brattle!⁷
I wad be laith⁸ to rin an' chase thee 5
Wi' murdering pattie!⁹

I'm truly sorry man's dominion
Has broken Nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion
Which makes thee startle 10
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,
An' fellow-mortal!

I doubt na, whyles,¹⁰ but thou may thieve:
What then? poor beastie, thou maun¹¹
live!
A daimen¹² icker¹³ in a thrave¹⁴ 15
'S a sma' request;
I'll get a blessing wi' the lave,¹⁵
An' never miss 't!

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!
Its silly wa's the win's are strewin! 20
An' naething, now, to big¹⁶ a new ane,
O' foggage¹⁷ green!
An' bleak December's winds ensuin
Baith snell¹⁸ an' keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare and waste, 25
An' weary winter comin fast,

An' cozie here, beneath the blast
Thou thought to dwell,
Till crash! the cruel coulter past
Out thro' thy cell. 30

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble
Has cost thee monie a weary nibble!
Now thou's turned out for a' thy trouble,
But¹⁹ house or hald,
To thole²⁰ the winter's sleety dribble 35
An' cranreuch²¹ cauld!

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane²²
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft a-gley,²³ 40
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
For promised joy.

Still thou art blest, compared wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But, och! I backward cast my ee 45
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!

TO A MOUNTAIN DAISY,

ON TURNING ONE DOWN WITH
THE PLOUGH, IN APRIL, 1786

Wee, modest, crimson-tippèd flow'r,
Thou's met me in an evil hour;
For I maun²⁴ crush among the stoure²⁵
Thy slender stem:
To spare thee now is past my pow'r, 5
Thou bonie gem.

Alas! it's no thy neebor sweet,
The bonie lark, companion meet,
Bending thee 'mang the dewy weat
Wi' speckled breast, 10
When upward-springing, blythe, to greet
The purpling east.

Cauld blew the bitter-biting north
Upon thy early, humble birth;
Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth 15
Amid the storm,
Scarce reared above the parent-earth
Thy tender form.

¹ talk. ² stone. ³ by. ⁴ disgrace. ⁵ soft, sleek.
⁶ hurrying. ⁷ clatter. ⁸ loth.
⁹ plough-staff. ¹⁰ sometimes. ¹¹ must.
¹² occasional. ¹³ ear. ¹⁴ twenty-four sheaves.
¹⁵ rest. ¹⁶ build. ¹⁷ coarse grass. ¹⁸ bitter.

¹⁹ without. ²⁰ endure. ²¹ hoar-frost. ²² alone.
²³ amiss. ²⁴ must. ²⁵ dust.

The flaunting flowers our gardens yield
High sheltering woods an' wa's¹ maun
shield: 20

But thou, beneath the random bield²
O' clod or stane,
Adorns the histie³ stibble-field
Unseen, alane.

There, in thy scanty mantle clad, 25
Thy snawie bosom sun-ward spread,
Thou lifts thy unassuming head
In humble guise;
But now the share uptears thy bed,
And low thou lies! 30

Such is the fate of artless maid,
Sweet flow'ret of the rural shade!
By love's simplicity betrayed
And guileless trust;
Till she, like thee, all soiled, is laid 35
Low i' the dust.

Such is the fate of simple bard,
On life's rough ocean luckless starred!
Unskilful he to note the card
Of prudent lore, 40
Till billows rage and gales blow hard,
And whelm him o'er!

Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n,
Who long with wants and woes has
striv'n,
By human pride or cunning driv'n 45
To misery's brink;
Till, wrenched of ev'ry stay but Heav'n,
He ruined sink!

Ev'n thou who mourn'st the daisy's fate,
That fate is thine—no distant date; 50
Stern Ruin's ploughshare drives elate,
Full on thy bloom,
Till crushed beneath the furrow's weight
Shall be thy doom.

THE COTTER'S SATURDAY NIGHT INSCRIBED TO ROBERT AIKEN, ESQ.

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor.
—GRAY.

My loved, my honored, much respected
friend!

No mercenary bard his homage pays;
With honest pride, I scorn each selfish
end:

My dearest meed a friend's esteem
and praise.

To you I sing, in simple Scottish
lays, 5

The lowly train in life's sequestered
scene;

The native feelings strong, the guile-
less ways;

What Aiken in a cottage would have
been;

Ah! tho' his worth unknown, far happier
there, I ween!

November chill blows loud wi' angry
sugh,⁴ 10

The short'ning winter day is near a
close;

The miry beasts retreating frae the
pleugh,

The black'ning trains o' craws to their
repose;

The toil-worn cotter frae his labor
goes,—

This night his weekly moil is at an
end,— 15

Collects his spades, his mattocks, and
his hoes,

Hoping the morn in ease and rest to
spend,

And weary, o'er the moor, his course does
hameward bend.

At length his lonely cot appears in view,
Beneath the shelter of an aged
tree; 20

Th' expectant wee-things, toddlin,
stacher⁵ through

To meet their dad, wi' flichterin⁶
noise an' glee.

His wee bit ingle,⁷ blinkin bonilie,
His clean hearth-stane, his thrifty
wife's smile,

The lispin infant prattling on his
knee, 25

Does a' his weary kiaugh⁸ and care
beguile,

An' makes him quite forget his labor an'
his toil.

¹ walls.² protection.³ dry.⁴ moan. ⁵ stagger. ⁶ fluttering. ⁷ fire-place. ⁸ anxiety.

Belyve,¹ the elder bairns come drapping
in,
At service out amang the farmers
roun';
Some ca² the pleugh, some herd, some
tentie³ rin 30
A cannie errand to a neebor toun:
Their eldest hope, their Jenny,
woman-grown,
In youthfu' bloom, love sparkling in her
ee,
Comes hame, perhaps to shew a braw⁴
new gown,
Or deposite her sair-won⁵ penny-fee, 35
To help her parents dear, if they in hard-
ship be.

With joy unfeigned, brothers and sisters
meet,
An' each for other's weelfare kindly
spiers:⁶
The social hours, swift-winged, un-
noticed fleet;
Each tells the uncos⁷ that he sees or
hears. 40
The parents, partial, eye their hopeful
years;
Anticipation forward points the view;
The mother, wi' her needle an' her
sheers,
Gars⁸ auld claes look amaist as weel's
the new;
The father mixes a' wi' admonition due. 45

Their master's an' their mistress's com-
mand
The youngers a' are warnèd to obey;
An' mind their labors wi' an eydent⁹
hand,
An' ne'er, tho' out o' sight, to jauk¹⁰
or play:
"An' O! be sure to fear the Lord
always, 50
An' mind your duty, duly, morn and
night!
Lest in temptation's path ye gang
astray,
Implore His counsel and assisting might:
They never sought in vain that sought
the Lord aright!"

But hark! a rap comes gently to the
door. 55
Jenny, wha kens the meaning o' the
same,
Tells how a neebor lad cam o'er the
moor,
To do some errands, and convoy her
hame.
The wily mother sees the conscious
flame
Sparkle in Jenny's ee, and flush her
cheek; 60
Wi' heart-struck, anxious care, in-
quires his name,
While Jenny hafflins¹¹ is afraid to speak;
Weel pleased the mother hears it's nae
wild worthless rake.

With kindly welcome Jenny brings him
ben;¹²
A strappin' youth, he takes the
mother's eye; 65
Blythe Jenny sees the visit's no ill taen;
The father cracks¹³ of horses, pleughs,
and kye.¹⁴
The youngster's artless heart o'erflows
wi' joy,
But, blate¹⁵ and laithfu',¹⁶ scarce can weel
behave;
The mother wi' a woman's wiles can
spy 70
What makes the youth sae bashfu' an'
sae grave,
Weel-pleased to think her bairn's re-
spected like the lave.¹⁷

O happy love! where love like this is
found!
O heart-felt raptures! bliss beyond
compare!
I've paced much this weary, mortal
round, 75
And sage experience bids me this de-
clare—
"If Heaven a draught of heavenly
pleasure spare,
One cordial in this melancholy vale,
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest
pair,
In other's arms breathe out the tender
tale, 80
Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents
the evening gale."

¹ soon.² drive.³ careful.⁴ fine.⁵ hard-earned.⁶ inquires.⁷ unusual things.⁸ makes.⁹ diligent.¹⁰ dally.¹¹ partly.¹² within.¹³ talks.¹⁴ cows.¹⁵ shy.¹⁶ bashful.¹⁷ rest.

Is there, in human form, that bears a
heart,
A wretch! a villain! lost to love and
truth!
That can with studied, sly, ensnaring
art
Betray sweet Jenny's unsuspecting
youth? 85
Curse on his perjured arts! dissem-
bling, smooth!
Are honor, virtue, conscience, all exiled?
Is there no pity, no relenting ruth,
Points to the parents fondling o'er their
child,
Then paints the ruined maid, and their
distraction wild? 90

But now the supper crowns their simple
board,
The halesome parritch,¹ chief of
Scotia's food;
The soupe² their only hawkie³ does
afford,
That yont⁴ the hallan⁵ snugly chows
her cood.
The dame brings forth, in compli-
mental mood, 95
To grace the lad, her weel-hained⁶
kebbuck⁷ fell,⁸
An' aft⁹ he's prest, an' aft he ca's it
guid;
The frugal wife, garrulous, will tell,
How 'twas a towmond¹⁰ auld, sin' lint¹¹ was
i' the bell.

The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious
face, 100
They round the ingle form a circle
wide;
The sire turns o'er with patriarchal grace
The big ha'-Bible,¹² ance his father's
pride;
His bonnet rev'rently is laid aside,
His lyart¹³ haffets¹⁴ wearing thin and
bare; 105
Those strains that once did sweet in
Zion glide,
He wales¹⁵ a portion with judicious care;
And, "Let us worship God," he says with
solemn air.

They chant their artless notes in simple
guise;
They tune their hearts, by far the no-
blest aim: 110
Perhaps *Dundee's* wild-warbling mea-
sures rise,
Or plaintive *Martyrs*, worthy of the
name,
Or noble *Elgin* beets¹⁶ the heaven-
ward flame,
The sweetest far of Scotia's holy lays.
Compared with these, Italian trills
are tame; 115
The tickled ear no heart-felt raptures
raise;
Nae unison hae they with our Creator's
praise.

The priest-like father reads the sacred
page,—
How Abram was the friend of God
on high;
Or Moses bade eternal warfare wage 120
With Amalek's ungracious progeny;
Or how the royal bard did groaning
lie
Beneath the stroke of Heaven's aveng-
ing ire;
Or Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing
cry;
Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphic fire; 125
Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is the
theme,—
How guiltless blood for guilty man
was shed;
How He, who bore in Heaven the
second name,
Had not on earth whereon to lay His
head: 130
How His first followers and servants
sped;
The precepts sage they wrote to many
a land
How he, who lone in Patmos banishèd,
Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand,
And heard great Bab'lon's doom pro-
nounced by Heaven's command. 135

Then kneeling down to Heaven's Eter-
nal King,
The saint, the father, and the hus-
band prays:

¹⁶ kindles.

¹ porridge.

² milk.

³ cow.

⁴ beyond.

⁵ partition.

⁶ well-saved.

⁷ cheese.

⁸ strong.

⁹ often.

¹⁰ twelve-month.

¹¹ since flax.

¹² hall-Bible.

¹³ grey.

¹⁴ locks.

¹⁵ selects.

Hope "springs exulting on triumphant wing,"
 That thus they all shall meet in future days:
 There ever bask in uncreated rays, ¹⁴⁰
 No more to sigh or shed the bitter tear,
 Together hymning their Creator's praise,
 In such society, yet still more dear,
 While circling Time moves round in an eternal sphere.

 Compared with this, how poor Religion's pride ¹⁴⁵
 In all the pomp of method and of art,
 When men display to congregations wide
 Devotion's ev'ry grace except the heart!
 The Power, incensed, the pageant will desert,
 The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole; ¹⁵⁰
 But haply in some cottage far apart
 May hear, well pleased, the language of the soul,
 And in His book of life the inmates poor enrol.

 Then homeward all take off their sev'ral way;
 The youngling cottagers retire to rest; ¹⁵⁵
 The parent-pair their secret homage pay,
 And proffer up to Heaven the warm request,
 That He who stills the raven's clam'rous nest
 And decks the lily fair in flow'ry pride,
 Would, in the way His wisdom sees the best, ¹⁶⁰
 For them and for their little ones provide;
 But chiefly, in their hearts with grace divine preside.

 From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs,
 That makes her loved at home, revered abroad:
 Princes and lords are but the breath of kings, ¹⁶⁵
 "An honest man's the noblest work of God":
 And certes, in fair Virtue's heavenly road,

The cottage leaves the palace far behind:
 What is a lordling's pomp? a cum-brous load,
 Disguising oft the wretch of human kind, ¹⁷⁰
 Studied in arts of hell, in wickedness refined!

O Scotia! my dear, my native soil!
 For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent!
 Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
 Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content! ¹⁷⁵
 And, oh! may Heaven their simple lives prevent
 From luxury's contagion, weak and vile!
 Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,
 A virtuous populace may rise the while,
 And stand a wall of fire around their much-loved isle. ¹⁸⁰

O Thou! who poured the patriotic tide
 That streamed thro' Wallace's undaunted heart,
 Who dared to nobly stem tyrannic pride,
 Or nobly die, the second glorious part,—
 (The patriot's God peculiarly thou art, ¹⁸⁵
 His friend, inspirer, guardian, and reward!)
 O never, never Scotia's realm desert,
 But still the patriot, and the patriot-bard,
 In bright succession raise, her ornament and guard!

ADDRESS TO THE UNCO GUID, OR THE RIGIDLY RIGHTEOUS

My Son, these maxims make a rule,
 An' lump them ay thegither;
 The *Rigid Righteous* is a fool,
 The *Rigid Wise* anither:

The cleanest corn that e'er was dight¹
 May hae some pyles o' caff² in;
 So ne'er a fellow-creature slight
 For random fits o' daffin.³
 SOLOMON.—Eccles. vii, 16.

O ye wha are sae guid yoursel,
 Sae pious and sae holy,
 Ye've nought to do but mark and tell
 Your neebor's fauts and folly!
 Whase life is like a weel-gaun⁴ mill, 5
 Supplied wi' store o' water,
 The hepet happer's⁵ ebbing still,
 An' still the clap plays clatter,—

Hear me, ye venerable core,⁶
 As counsel for poor mortals 10
 That frequent pass douce⁷ Wisdom's door
 For glaikit⁸ Folly's portals;
 I for their thoughtless, careless sakes
 Would here propone⁹ defences—
 Their donsie¹⁰ tricks, their black mistakes,
 Their failings and mischances. 16

Ye see your state wi' theirs compared,
 And shudder at the niffer;¹¹
 But cast a moment's fair regard,
 What makes the mighty differ?¹² 20
 Discount what scant occasion gave,
 That purity ye pride in,
 And (what's aft¹³ mair than a' the lave)¹⁴
 Your better art o' hidin.

Think, when your castigated pulse 25
 Gies now and then a wallop,
 What ragins must his veins convulse
 That still eternal gallop:
 Wi' wind and tide fair i' your tail,
 Right on ye scud your sea-way; 30
 But in the teeth o' baith¹⁵ to sail,
 It makes an unco¹⁶ leeway.

See Social Life and Glee sit down,
 All joyous and unthanking,
 Till, quite transmugrified,¹⁷ they're grown
 Debauchery and Drinking: 36
 O would they stay to calculate
 Th' eternal consequences;
 Or—your more dreaded hell to state—
 Damnation of expenses! 40

¹ winnowed.⁴ well-going.⁷ grave.¹⁰ reckless.¹³ often.¹⁶ tremendous.² grains of chaff.⁵ hopper.⁸ giddy.¹¹ comparison.¹⁴ rest.³ larking.⁶ assembly.⁹ proffer.¹² difference.¹⁵ both.¹⁷ transformed.

Ye high, exalted, virtuous dames,
 Tied up in godly laces,
 Before you gie poor Frailty names,
 Suppose a change o' cases:
 A dear loved lad, convenience snug, 45
 A treacherous inclination—
 But, let me whisper i' your lug,¹⁸
 Ye're aiblins¹⁹ nae temptation.

Then gently scan your brother man,
 Still gentler sister woman; 50
 Tho' they may gang a kennin²⁰ wrang,
 To step aside is human:
 One point must still be greatly dark,
 The moving *Why* they do it;
 And just as lamely can ye mark, 55
 How far perhaps they rue it.

Who made the heart, 'tis He alone
 Decidedly can try us,
 He knows each chord, its various tone,
 Each spring, its various bias: 60
 Then at the balance, let's be mute,
 We never can adjust it;
 What's done we partly can compute,
 But know not what's resisted.

TAM O' SHANTER

A TALE

Of Brownyis and of Bogillis full is this buke.
 —GAWIN DOUGLAS.

When chapman billies²¹ leave the street,
 And drouthy²² neebors neebors meet,
 As market-days are wearing late,
 An' folk begin to tak the gate;²³
 While we sit bousing at the nappy,²⁴ 5
 An' gettin fou and unco²⁵ happy,
 We think na on the lang Scots miles,
 The mosses, waters, slaps,²⁶ and stiles,
 That lie between us and our hame,
 Whare sits our sulky, sullen dame, 10
 Gathering her brows like gathering storm,
 Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.

This truth fand honest Tam o' Shanter,
 As he frae Ayr ae night did canter:
 (Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a town surpasses,
 For honest men and bonie lasses.) 16

¹⁸ ear.²¹ shopmen.²⁴ ale.¹⁹ perhaps.²² thirsty.²⁵ wonderfully.²⁰ trifle.²³ go home.²⁶ gaps in the road.

O Tam! had'st thou but been sae wise
 As taen thy ain wife Kate's advice!
 She tauld thee weel thou was a skellum,¹
 A bletherin, blusterin, drunken blellum;² 20
 That frae November till October,
 Ae³ market-day thou was nae sober;
 That ilka⁴ melder⁵ wi' the miller,
 Thou sat as lang as thou had siller;
 That ev'ry naig⁶ was ca'd⁷ a shoe on,⁷ 25
 The smith and thee gat roaring fou on;
 That at the Lord's house, even on Sunday,
 Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday.
 She prophesied, that, late or soon,
 Thou would be found deep drowned in
 Doon; 30
 Or catched wi' warlocks⁸ in the mirk,⁹
 By Alloway's auld haunted kirk.

Ah, gentle dames! it gars¹⁰ me greet,¹¹
 To think how monie counsels sweet,
 How monie lengthened sage advices, 35
 The husband frae the wife despises!

But to our tale:—Ae market night,
 Tam had got planted unco right,
 Fast by an ingle,¹² bleezing finely,
 Wi' reaming swats¹³ that drank divinely;
 And at his elbow, Souter Johnie, 41
 His ancient, trusty, drouthy cronie:
 Tam lo'ed him like a very brither;¹⁴
 They had been fou for weeks thegither.
 The night drave on wi' sangs and clatter;
 And ay the ale was growing better: 46
 The landlady and Tam grew gracious
 Wi' secret favors, sweet and precious:
 The souter¹⁵ tauld his queerest stories;
 The landlord's laugh was ready chorus: 50
 The storm without might rair and rustle,
 Tam did na mind the storm a whistle.

Care, mad to see a man sae happy,
 E'en drowned himsel amang the nappy:
 As bees flee hame wi' lades o' treasure, 55
 The minutes winged their way wi' pleasure;
 Kings may be blest, but Tam was glorious,
 O'er a' the ills o' life victorious!

But pleasures are like poppies spread,
 You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed; 60
 Or like the snow falls in the river,
 A moment white—then melts forever;

Or like the borealis race,
 That flit ere you can point their place;
 Or like the rainbow's lovely form 65
 Evanishing amid the storm.
 Nae man can tether time or tide:
 The hour approaches Tam maun ride,—
 That hour, o' night's black arch the key-
 stane,
 That dreary hour Tam mounts his beast 70
 in;
 And sic a night he taks the road in,
 As ne'er poor sinner was abroad in.

The wind blew as 't wad blawn its last;
 The rattling showers rose on the blast;
 The speedy gleams the darkness swal-
 lowed; 75
 Loud, deep, and lang the thunder bel-
 lowed:
 That night, a child might understand,
 The Deil had business on his hand.

Weel mounted on his grey mare, Meg,—
 A better never lifted leg,— 80
 Tam skelpit¹⁶ on thro' dub¹⁷ and mire,
 Despising wind and rain and fire;
 Whiles holding fast his guid blue bon-
 net,
 Whiles crooning o'er some auld Scots
 sonnet,
 Whiles glow'ring round wi' prudent cares, 86
 Lest bogles¹⁸ catch him unawares.
 Kirk-Alloway was drawing nigh,
 Where ghaists and houlets¹⁹ nightly cry.

By this time he was cross the ford,
 Where in the snaw the chapman smooored;²⁰
 And past the birks²¹ and meikle²² stane, 91
 Where drunken Charlie brak's neck-bane;²³
 And thro' the whins,²⁴ and by the cairn,²⁵
 Where hunters fand the murdered bairn;²⁶
 And near the thorn, aboon²⁷ the well, 95
 Where Mungo's mither hanged hersel.
 Before him Doon pours all his floods;
 The doubling storm roars thro' the woods;
 The lightnings flash from pole to pole,
 Near and more near the thunders roll; 100
 When, glimmering thro' the groaning
 trees
 Kirk-Alloway seemed in a bleeze:²⁸
 Thro' ilka bore²⁹ the beams were glancing,
 And loud resounded mirth and dancing.

¹ rascal. ² prattler. ³ one. ⁴ every. ⁵ grinding.
⁶ nag. ⁷ shod. ⁸ wizards. ⁹ dark. ¹⁰ makes.
¹¹ weep. ¹² fireside. ¹³ foaming ale. ¹⁴ brother. ¹⁵ cobbler.

¹⁶ hurried. ¹⁷ mud. ¹⁸ bogies. ¹⁹ owls. ²⁰ smothered.
²¹ birches. ²² big. ²³ neck. ²⁴ gorse. ²⁵ rock-pile.
²⁶ child. ²⁷ above. ²⁸ blaze. ²⁹ opening.

Inspiring bold John Barleycorn! 105
 What dangers thou canst make us scorn!
 Wi' tippenny¹ we fear nae evil;
 Wi' usquebae² we'll face the devil!
 The swats³ sae reamed⁴ in Tammie's nod-
 dle,
 Fair play, he cared na deils a boddle.⁵ 110
 But Maggie stood right sair astonished,
 Till, by the heel and hand admonished,
 She ventured forward on the light;
 And, wow! Tam saw an unco sight!

Warlocks and witches in a dance; 115
 Nae cotillion brent-new⁶ frae France,
 But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and
 reels

Put life and mettle in their heels:
 A winnock⁷ bunker⁸ in the east,
 There sat Auld Nick in shape o' beast; 120
 A towsie⁹ tyke,¹⁰ black, grim, and large,
 To gie them music was his charge;
 He screwed the pipes and gart¹¹ them
 skirl,¹²

Till roof and rafters a' did dirl.¹³—
 Coffins stood round like open presses, 125
 That shawed the dead in their last
 dresses;

And by some devilish cantraip¹⁴ sleight
 Each in its cauld hand held a light,
 By which heroic Tam was able
 To note upon the haly table 130

A murderer's banes in gibbet airns;¹⁵
 Twa span-lang, wee, unchristened bairns;
 A thief, new-cutted frae a rape¹⁶—
 Wi' his last gasp his gab¹⁷ did gape;
 Five tomahawks, wi' bluid red-rusted; 135
 Five scymitars, wi' murder crusted;
 A garter, which a babe had strangled;
 A knife, a father's throat had mangled,
 Whom his ain son o' life bereft—
 The grey hairs yet stack to the heft; 140
 Wi' mair o' horrible and awfu',
 Which even to name wad be unlawfu'.

As Tammie glowered, amazed and
 curious,
 The mirth and fun grew fast and furious:
 The piper loud and louder blew, 145
 The dancers quick and quicker flew;

They reeled, they set, they crossed, they
 cleekit,¹⁸
 Till ilka carlin¹⁹ swat²⁰ and reekit,²¹
 And coost²² her duddies²³ to the wark²⁴
 And linket²⁵ at it in her sark!²⁶ 150

Now Tam, O Tam! had thae been
 queans,²⁷
 A' plump and strapping in their teens!
 Their sarks, instead o' creeshie²⁸ flannen,²⁹
 Been snaw-white seventeen hunder
 linen!—

Thir³⁰ breeks o' mine, my only pair, 155
 That ance were plush, o' guid blue hair,
 I wad hae gien them aff my hurdies,³¹
 For ae blink o' the bonie burdies!

* * * * *

But Tam kend what was what fu'
 brawlie,³²

There was ae winsome wench and wawlie,³³
 That night enlisted in the core³⁴ 165

Lang after kend on Carrick shore
 (For monie a beast to dead she shot,
 An' perished monie a bonie boat,
 And shook baith meikle corn and bear,³⁵
 And kept the country-side in fear.) 170
 Her kuty sark³⁶ o' Paisley harn,³⁷
 That while a lassie she had worn,
 In longitude tho' sorely scanty,
 It was her best, and she was vauntie.³⁸
 Ah! little kend thy reverend grannie, 175
 That sark she coft³⁹ for her wee Nannie,
 Wi' twa pund Scots ('twas a' her riches),
 Wad ever graced a dance o' witches!

But here my Muse her wing maun cour,
 Sic flights are far beyond her power; 180
 To sing how Nannie lap and flang,
 (A souple jad⁴⁰ she was and strang,)
 And how Tam stood like ane bewitched,
 And thought his very een⁴¹ enriched; 184
 Even Satan glowered and fidget⁴² fu' fain,
 And hotched⁴³ and blew wi' might and
 main:

Till first ae caper, syne⁴⁴ anither,
 Tam tint⁴⁵ his reason a' thegither,
 And roars out, "Weel done, Catty-sark!"
 And in an instant all was dark: 190
 And scarcely had he Maggie rallied,
 When out the hellish legion sallied.

¹ twopenny ale.

² whiskey.

³ ale.

⁴ foamed.

⁶ penny.

⁶ brand-new.

⁷ window.

⁸ bench.

⁹ shaggy.

¹⁰ dog.

¹¹ made.

¹² scream.

¹³ shake.

¹⁴ magical.

¹⁵ irons.

¹⁶ rope.

¹⁷ mouth.

¹⁸ clutched.

¹⁹ old hag.

²⁰ sweated.

²¹ steamed.

²² threw.

²³ clothes.

²⁴ work.

²⁵ rushed.

²⁶ shirt.

²⁷ young girls.

²⁸ greasy.

²⁹ flannel.

³⁰ these.

³¹ hips.

³² well.

³³ handsome.

³⁴ company.

³⁵ barley.

³⁶ chemise.

³⁷ linen.

³⁸ proud.

³⁹ bought.

⁴⁰ jade.

⁴¹ eyes.

⁴² fidgeted.

⁴³ squirmed.

⁴⁴ then.

⁴⁵ lost.

As bees bizz out wi' angry fyke,¹
 When plundering herds assail their byke;²
 As open pussie's³ mortal foes, 195
 When, pop! she starts before their nose;
 As eager runs the market-crowd,
 When "Catch the thief!" resounds aloud;
 So Maggie runs, the witches follow, 199
 Wi' monie an eldritch⁴ skriech and hollo.

Ah, Tam! ah, Tam! thou'll get thy
 fairin!⁵
 In hell they'll roast thee like a herrin!
 In vain thy Kate awaits thy comin!
 Kate soon will be a woefu' woman!
 Now, do thy speedy utmost, Meg, 205
 And win the key-stane of the brig:⁶
 There at them thou thy tail may toss,
 A running stream they dare na cross.
 But ere the key-stane she could make,
 The fient⁷ a tail she had to shake! 210
 For Nannie, far before the rest,
 Hard upon noble Maggie prest,
 And flew at Tam wi' furious ettle;⁸
 But little wist she Maggie's mettle—
 Ae spring brought aff her master hale, 215
 But left behind her ain grey tail:
 The carlin clautht her by the rump,
 And left poor Maggie scarce a stump.

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,
 Ilk⁹ man and mother's son, take heed, 220
 Whene'er to drink you are inclined,
 Or cutty-sarks run in your mind,
 Think, ye may buy the joys o'er dear,
 Remember Tam o' Shanter's Mare.

SCOTS WHA HAE

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
 Scots, wham Bruce has aften led;
 Welcome to your gory bed,
 Or to victorie!
 Now's the day, and now's the hour; 5
 See the front o' battle lour;
 See approach proud Edward's power—
 Chains and slaverie!

Wha will be a traitor knave?
 Wha can fill a coward's grave? 10
 Wha sae base as be a slave?
 Let him turn and flee!

¹ fury. ² hive. ³ the hare's.
⁴ unearthly. ⁵ reward. ⁶ bridge.
⁷ devil. ⁸ intent. ⁹ every.

Wha for Scotland's king and law
 Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
 Freeman stand or freeman fa', 15
 Let him follow me!

By oppression's woes and pains!
 By your sons in servile chains!
 We will drain our dearest veins,
 But they shall be free! 20
 Lay the proud usurpers low!
 Tyrants fall in every foe!
 Liberty's in every blow!—
 Let us do or die!

SONGS

MARY MORISON

O Mary, at thy window be,
 It is the wished, the trysted hour!
 Those smiles and glances let me see,
 That make the miser's treasure poor:
 How blythely wad I bide the stoure,¹⁰ 5
 A weary slave frae sun to sun,
 Could I the rich reward secure,
 The lovely Mary Morison.

Yestreen when to the trembling string
 The dance gaed thro' the lighted ha', 10
 To thee my fancy took its wing,
 I sat, but neither heard nor saw:
 Tho' this was fair, and that was braw,¹¹
 And yon the toast of a' the town,
 I sighed, and said among them a', 15
 "Ye are na Mary Morison."

O Mary, canst thou wreck his peace,
 Wha for thy sake wad gladly die?
 Or canst thou break that heart of his,
 Whase only faut is loving thee? 20
 If love for love thou wilt na gie
 At least be pity to me shown:
 A thought ungente canna be
 The thought o' Mary Morison.

GREEN GROW THE RASHES

CHORUS.—Green grow the rashes, O;
 Green grow the rashes, O;
 The sweetest hours that e'er I
 spend
 Are spent among the lasses, O.

¹⁰ endure the struggle.

¹¹ handsome.

There's nought but care on ev'ry han', 5
 In every hour that passes, O:
 What signifies the life o' man,
 An 'twere na for the lasses, O?

The war'ly¹ race may riches chase,
 An' riches still may fly them, O; 10
 An' tho' at last they catch them fast,
 Their hearts can ne'er enjoy them, O.

But gie me a cannie² hour at e'en,
 My arms about my dearie, O;
 An' war'ly cares, an' war'ly men, 15
 May a' gae tapsalteerie,³ O.

For you sae douce,⁴ ye sneer at this;
 Ye're nought but senseless asses, O:
 The wisest man the warl' e'er saw,
 He dearly loved the lasses, O. 20

Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears
 Her noblest work she classes, O:
 Her prentice han' she tried on man,
 An' then she made the lasses, O.

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintaince be forgot,
 And never brought to min'?
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
 And auld lang syne?

CHO.—For auld lang syne, my dear, 5
 For auld lang syne,
 We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
 For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,⁵
 And surely I'll be mine! 10
 And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
 For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,⁶
 And pu'd the gowans⁷ fine;
 But we've wandered monie a weary fit⁸ 15
 Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidld⁹ i' the burn,¹⁰
 From mornin' sun till dine;¹¹
 But seas between us braid¹² hae roared
 Sin' auld lang syne. 20

¹ worldly. ² quiet. ³ topsy-turvy. ⁴ sedate.
⁵ pint-cup. ⁶ hillsides. ⁷ daisies. ⁸ foot.
⁹ paddled. ¹⁰ brook. ¹² noon. ¹² broad.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,¹³
 And gie's a hand o' thine;
 And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught¹⁴
 For auld lang syne.

OF A' THE AIRTS THE WIND CAN BLAW

Of a' the airts¹⁵ the wind can blaw
 I dearly like the west,
 For there the bonie lassie lives,
 The lassie I lo'e best:
 There wild woods grow an' rivers row,¹⁶ 5
 An' monie a hill between;
 But day and night my fancy's flight
 Is ever wi' my Jean.

I see her in the dewy flowers,
 I see her sweet an' fair: 10
 I hear her in the tunefu' birds,
 I hear her charm the air:
 There's not a bonie flower that springs
 By fountain, shaw,¹⁷ or green;
 There's not a bonie bird that sings, 15
 But minds me o' my Jean.

TAM GLEN

My heart is a-breaking, dear tittie,¹⁸
 Some counsel unto me come len';
 To anger them a' is a pity,
 But what will I do wi' Tam Glen?

I'm thinking, wi' sic¹⁹ a braw²⁰ fellow, 5
 In poortith²¹ I might mak a fen':²²
 What care I in riches to wallow,
 If I mauna marry Tam Glen?

There's Lowrie, the laird o' Dumeller,
 "Guid-day to you,"—brute! he comes
 ben:²³ 10
 He brags and he blows o' his siller,
 But when will he dance like Tam Glen?

My minnie²⁴ does constantly deave²⁵ me,
 And bids me beware o' young men;
 They flatter, she says, to deceive me; 15
 But wha can think sae o' Tam Glen?

¹³ comrade. ¹⁴ draught. ¹⁵ ways. ¹⁶ roll.
¹⁷ wood. ¹⁸ sister. ¹⁹ such.
²⁰ handsome ²¹ poverty. ²² shift.
²³ in. ⁴ mother. ²⁵ deafen.

My daddie says, gin I'll forsake him,
 He'll gie me guid hunder marks ten:
 But, if it's ordained I maun take him,
 O wha will I get but Tam Glen? 20

Yestreen at the valentines' dealing,
 My heart to my mou¹ gied a sten:²
 For thrice I drew ane without failing,
 And thrice it was written, "Tam Glen"!

The last Halloween I was waukin³ 25
 My droukit⁴ sark-sleeve,⁵ as ye ken:
 His likeness cam up the house staukin,⁶
 And the very gray breeks o' Tam Glen!

Come counsel, dear tittie, don't tarry;
 I'll gie ye my bonie black hen, 30
 Gif ye will advise me to marry
 The lad I lo'e dearly, Tam Glen.

MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS

Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the
 North,
 The birth-place of valor, the country of
 worth;
 Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
 The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart
 is not here; 5
 My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing
 the deer;
 A-chasing the wild deer, and following
 the roe,
 My heart's in the Highlands wherever I
 go.

Farewell to the mountains, high-covered
 with snow;
 Farewell to the straths⁷ and green valleys
 below; 10
 Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging
 woods,
 Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring
 floods.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart
 is not here;
 My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing
 the deer;

A-chasing the wild deer, and following
 the roe, 15
 My heart's in the Highlands wherever
 I go.

GO FETCH TO ME A PINT O' WINE

Go fetch to me a pint o' wine,
 And fill it in a silver tassie;⁸
 That I may drink, before I go,
 A service to my bonie lassie:
 The boat rocks at the pier o' Leith, 5
 Fu' loud the wind blows frae the Ferry;
 The ship rides by the Berwick-law,
 And I maun leave my bonie Mary.

The trumpets sound, the banners fly,
 The glittering spears are rankèd ready,¹⁰
 The shouts o' war are heard afar,
 The battle closes deep and bloody;
 It's not the roar o' sea or shore
 Wad mak me langer wish to tarry;
 Nor shouts o' war that's heard afar— 15
 It's leaving thee, my bonie Mary!

JOHN ANDERSON MY JO

John Anderson my jo,⁹ John,
 When we were first acquent,
 Your locks were like the raven,
 Your bonie brow was brent;¹⁰
 But now your brow is beld,¹¹ John, 5
 Your locks are like the snaw;
 But blessings on your frosty pow,¹²
 John Anderson my jo.

John Anderson my jo, John,
 We clamb the hill thegither; 10
 And monie a cantie¹³ day, John,
 We've had wi' ane anither:
 Now we maun totter down, John,
 And hand in hand we'll go,
 And sleep thegither at the foot, 15
 John Anderson my jo.

WILLIE BREWED A PECK O' MAUT

O, Willie brewed a peck o' maut,¹⁴
 An' Rob an' Allan cam to see:
 Three blyther hearts that lee-lang¹⁵ night
 Ye wad na found in Christendie.

¹ mouth. ² spring. ³ watching. ⁴ wetted.
⁵ shirt-sleeve. ⁶ stalking. ⁷ river valleys.

⁸ goblet. ⁹ sweetheart. ¹⁰ smooth. ¹¹ bald.
¹² head. ¹³ happy. ¹⁴ malt. ¹⁵ live-long.

CHORUS.—We are na fou, we're nae that
 fou, 5
 But just a drappie¹ in our ee;
 The cock may crawl, the day
 may daw,²
 And ay we'll taste the barley
 bree.³

Here are we met, three merry boys,
 Three merry boys, I trow, are we; 10
 An' monie a night we've merry been,
 And monie mae⁴ we hope to be!

It is the moon, I ken her horn,
 That's blinkin in the lift⁵ sae hie;
 She shines sae bright to wyle⁶ us hame, 15
 But, by my sooth, she'll wait a wee!

Wha first shall rise to gang awa',
 A cuckold, coward loun is he!
 Wha first beside his chair shall fa',
 He is the king amang us three! 20

FLOW GENTLY, SWEET AFTON

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy
 green braes,⁷
 Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy
 praise;
 My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring
 stream,
 Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her
 dream.

Thou stock-dove, whose echo resounds
 thro' the glen, 5
 Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny
 den,
 Thou green-crested lapwing, thy screaming
 forbear,
 I charge you disturb not my slumbering
 fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighboring
 hills,
 Far marked with the courses of clear
 winding rills; 10
 There daily I wander as noon rises high,
 My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my
 eye.

¹ little drop.⁴ more.⁶ entice.² dawn.³ brew.⁵ sky.⁷ hillsides.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys
 below,
 Where wild in the woodlands the prim-
 roses blow;
 There oft, as mild Evening weeps over the
 lea, 15
 The sweet-scented birk⁸ shades my Mary
 and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it
 glides,
 And winds by the cot where my Mary
 resides;
 How wanton thy waters her snowy feet
 lave,
 As gathering sweet flowerets she stems thy
 clear wave. 20

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy
 green braes,
 Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my
 lays;
 My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring
 stream,
 Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her
 dream.

BONIE DOON

Ye flowery banks o' bonie Doon,
 How can ye blume sae fair?
 How can ye chant, ye little birds,
 And I sae fu' o' care?

Thou'll break my heart, thou bonie bird, 5
 That sings upon the bough;
 Thou minds me o' the happy days,
 When my fause luvie was true.

Thou'll break my heart, thou bonie bird,
 Thou sings beside thy mate; 10
 For sae I sat, and sae I sang,
 And wist na o' my fate.

Aft hae I roved by bonie Doon
 To see the woodbine twine,
 And ilka⁹ bird sang o' its luvie, 15
 And sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose
 Frae aff its thorny tree;
 And my fause luvie staw¹⁰ my rose
 But left the thorn wi' me. 20

⁸ birch.⁹ every.¹⁰ stole.

AE FOND KISS

Ae¹ fond kiss, and then we sever;
 Ae farewell, and then forever!
 Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,
 Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.
 Who shall say that Fortune grieves him, 5
 While the star of hope she leaves him?
 Me, nae cheerfu' twinkle lights me;
 Dark despair around benights me.

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy,
 Naething could resist my Nancy; 10
 But to see her was to love her;
 Love but her, and love forever.
 Had we never loved sae kindly,
 Had we never loved sae blindly,
 Never met—or never parted— 15
 We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

Fare thee weel, thou first and fairest!
 Fare thee weel, thou best and dearest!
 Thine be ilka² joy and treasure,
 Peace, enjoyment, love, and pleasure! 20
 Ae fond kiss, and then we sever;
 Ae farewell, alas, forever!
 Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,
 Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee!

HIGHLAND MARY

Ye banks, and braes,³ and streams around
 The castle o' Montgomery,
 Green be your woods and fair your flowers,
 Your waters never drumlie!⁴
 There simmer first unfald her robes, 5
 And there the langest tarry;
 For there I took the last fareweel,
 O' my sweet Highland Mary.

How sweetly bloomed the gay green birk,⁵
 How rich the hawthorn's blossom, 10
 As underneath their fragrant shade
 I clasped her to my bosom!
 The golden hours on angel wings
 Flew o'er me and my dearie;
 For dear to me as light and life, 15
 Was my sweet Highland Mary.

Wi' monie a vow and locked embrace
 Our parting was fu' tender;
 And, pledging aft to meet again,
 We tore ourselves asunder; 20

¹ one. ² every. ³ hills. ⁴ muddy. ⁵ birch.

But O! fell death's untimely frost,
 That nipt my flower sae early!
 Now green's the sod, and cauld's the clay,
 That wraps my Highland Mary!

O pale, pale now, those rosy lips, 25
 I aft hae kissed sae fondly!
 And closed for ay the sparkling glance,
 That dwalt on me sae kindly!
 And mouldering now in silent dust,
 That heart that lo'ed me dearly! 30
 But still within my bosom's core
 Shall live my Highland Mary.

DUNCAN GRAY

Duncan Gray came here to woo,
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 On blythe Yule night when we were fou,⁶
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Maggie coost⁷ her head fu high, 5
 Looked asklent⁸ and unco skeigh,⁹
 Gart¹⁰ poor Duncan stand abeigh;¹¹
 Ha, ha, the wooin o't!

Duncan fleechd,¹² and Duncan prayed;
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!) 10
 Meg was deaf as Ailsa Craig,
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Duncan sighed baith out and in,
 Grat¹³ his een¹⁴ baith bleer't¹⁵ and blin',
 Spak o' lowpin¹⁶ o'er a linn;¹⁷ 15
 Ha, ha, the wooin o't!

Time and chance are but a tide,
 (Ha ha, the wooin o't!)
 Slighted love is sair to bide,¹⁸
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!) 20
 "Shall I, like a fool," quoth he,
 "For a haughty hizzie¹⁹ die?
 She may gae to—France for me!"
 Ha, ha, the wooin o't!

How it comes let doctors tell, 25
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Meg grew sick as he grew hale,
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Something in her bosom wrings,
 For relief a sigh she brings; 30
 And O! her een, they spak sic things!
 Ha, ha, the wooin o't!

⁶ full. ⁷ tossed. ⁸ sidewise. ⁹ very shy.
¹⁰ made. ¹¹ aside. ¹² wheedled. ¹³ wept.
¹⁴ eyes. ¹⁵ bleared. ¹⁶ leaping. ¹⁷ waterfall.
¹⁸ endure. ¹⁹ hussy.

Duncan was a lad o' grace,
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Maggie's was a piteous case, 35
 (Ha, ha, the wooin o't!)
 Duncan could na be her death,
 Swelling pity smoores¹ his wrath;
 Now they're crouse² and cantie³ baith;
 Ha, ha, the wooin o't! 40

From THE JOLLY BEGGARS

See! the smoking bowl before us,
 Mark our jovial ragged ring;
 Round and round take up the chorus,
 And in raptures let us sing:

CHORUS

A fig for those by law protected! 5
 Liberty's a glorious feast!
 Courts for cowards were erected,
 Churches built to please the priest.

What is title? what is treasure?
 What is reputation's care? 10
 If we lead a life of pleasure,
 Tis no matter, how or where!

With the ready trick and fable,
 Round we wander all the day;
 And at night, in barn or stable, 15
 Hug our doxies on the hay.

Does the train-attended carriage
 Through the country lighter rove?
 Does the sober bed of marriage
 Witness brighter scenes of love? 20

Life is all a variorum,
 We regard not how it goes;
 Let them cant about decorum
 Who have characters to lose.

Here's to budgets, bags, and wallets! 25
 Here's to all our wandering train!
 Here's our ragged brats and callets!⁴
 One and all cry out, Amen!

CONTENTED WI' LITTLE AND
 CANTIE WI' MAIR

Contented wi' little, and cantie⁵ wi' mair,
 Whene'er I forgather⁶ wi' Sorrow and
 Care,

I gie them a skelp⁷ as they're creeping
 alang,
 Wi' a cog⁸ o' guid swats⁹ and an auld
 Scottish sang.

I whiles claw¹⁰ the elbow o' troublesome
 Thought; 5
 But man is a soger, and life is a faught;
 My mirth and guid humor are coin in my
 pouch,
 And my freedom's my lairdship nae
 monarch daur touch.

A towmond¹¹ o' trouble, should that be
 my fa,¹²
 A night o' guid fellowship sowthers¹³ it a';
 When at the blythe end of our journey at
 last, 11
 Wha the deil ever thinks o' the road he
 has past?

Blind Chance, let her snapper¹⁴ and
 stoyte¹⁵ on her way;
 Be't to me, be't frae me, e'en let the jade
 gae:
 Come ease or come travail, come pleasure
 or pain, 15
 My warst word is: "Welcome, and wel-
 come again!"

A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT

Is there, for honest poverty,
 That hings his head, an' a' that?
 The coward slave, we pass him by,
 We dare be poor for a' that!
 For a' that, an' a' that, 5
 Our toils obscure, an' a' that;
 The rank is but the guinea's stamp;
 The man's the gowd¹⁶ for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
 Wear hodden-gray,¹⁷ an' a' that; 10
 Gie fools their silks, and knaves their
 wine,
 A man's a man for a' that.
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 Their tinsel show, an' a' that;
 The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor, 15
 Is king o' men for a' that.

¹ smothered.
⁴ trulls.

² cheerful.
⁵ cheerful.

³ happy.
⁶ associate.

⁷ rap.

¹⁰ scratch.

¹³ makes it all up.

¹⁶ gold.

⁸ bowl.

¹¹ twelve-month.

¹⁴ stumble.

⁹ ale.

¹² lot.

¹⁵ stagger.

¹⁷ homespun grey.

Ye see yon birkie,¹ ca'd a lord,
 Wha struts, an' stares, an' a' that;
 Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
 He's but a cuif² for a' that: 20
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 His riband, star, an' a' that,
 The man o' independent mind,
 He looks and laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight, 25
 A marquis, duke, an' a' that;
 But an honest man's aboon³ his might,
 Guid faith, he mauna fa⁴ that!
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 Their dignities, an' a' that, 30
 The pith o' sense, an' pride o' worth,
 Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
 (As come it will for a' that)
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
 Shall bear the gree,⁵ an' a' that. 36
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 It's coming yet, for a' that,
 That man to man, the world o'er,
 Shall brithers be for a' that. 40

O, WERT THOU IN THE CAULD BLAST

O, wert thou in the cauld blast,
 On yonder lea, on yonder lea,
 My plaidie to the angry airt,
 I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee.
 Or did misfortune's bitter storms 5
 Around thee blaw, around thee
 blaw,
 Thy bield should be my bosom,
 To share it a', to share it a'.

Or were I in the wildest waste,
 Sae black and bare, sae black and 10
 bare,
 The desert were a paradise,
 If thou wert there, if thou wert there.
 Or were I monarch o' the globe,
 Wi' thee to reign, wi' thee to reign,
 The brightest jewel in my crown 15
 Wad be my queen, wad be my queen.

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)

From SONGS OF INNOCENCE

INTRODUCTION

Piping down the valleys wild,
 Piping songs of pleasant glee,
 On a cloud I saw a child,
 And he laughing said to me:

"Pipe a song about a Lamb!" 5
 So I piped with merry cheer.
 "Piper, pipe that song again;"
 So I piped: he wept to hear.

"Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe;
 Sing thy songs of happy cheer!" 10
 So I sung the same again,
 While he wept with joy to hear.

"Piper, sit thee down and write
 In a book, that all may read."
 So he vanished from my sight; 15
 And I plucked a hollow reed,

And I made a rural pen,
 And I stained the water clear,
 And I wrote my happy songs
 Every child may joy to hear. 20

THE LAMB

Little Lamb, who made thee?
 Dost thou know who made thee?
 Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
 By the stream and o'er the mead;
 Gave thee clothing of delight, 5
 Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
 Gave thee such a tender voice,
 Making all the vales rejoice?
 Little Lamb, who made thee?
 Dost thou know who made thee? 10

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
 Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
 He is callèd by thy name,
 For He calls Himself a Lamb.
 He is meek, and He is mild; 15
 He became a little child.
 I a child, and thou a lamb,
 We are callèd by His name.
 Little Lamb, God bless thee!
 Little Lamb, God bless thee! 20

¹ young chap.

² fool.

³ above.

⁴ cannot lay claim to.

⁵ prize.

CRADLE SONG

Sweet dreams, form a shade
O'er my lovely infant's head;
Sweet dreams of pleasant streams
By happy, silent, moony beams.

Sweet Sleep, with soft down 5
Weave thy brows an infant crown.
Sweet Sleep, angel mild,
Hover o'er my happy child.

Sweet smiles, in the night
Hover over my delight; 10
Sweet smiles, mother's smiles,
All the livelong night beguiles.

Sweet moans, dovelike sighs,
Chase not slumber from thy eyes.
Sweet moans, sweeter smiles, 15
All the dovelike moans beguiles.

Sleep, sleep, happy child,
All creation slept and smiled;
Sleep, sleep, happy sleep, 20
While o'er thee thy mother weep.

Sweet babe, in thy face
Holy image I can trace.
Sweet babe, once like thee,
Thy Maker lay and wept for me.

Wept for me, for thee, for all, 25
When he was an infant small.
Thou his image ever see,
Heavenly face that smiles on thee,

Smiles on thee, on me, on all;
Who became an infant small. 30
Infant smiles are His own smiles;
Heaven and earth to peace beguiles.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOY

My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but oh my soul is white!
White as an angel is the English child,
But I am black, as if bereaved of light.

My mother taught me underneath a tree, 5
And, sitting down before the heat of day,
She took me on her lap and kissèd me,
And, pointing to the east, began to say:

"Look on the rising sun,—there God does
live,
And gives his light, and gives his heat
away; 10
And flowers and trees and beasts and men
receive
Comfort in morning, joy in the noonday.

"And we are put on earth a little space,
That we may learn to bear the beams of
love; 15
And these black bodies and this sunburnt
face
Are but a cloud, and like a shady grove.

"For when our souls have learned the heat
to bear,
The cloud will vanish, we shall hear his
voice, 20
Saying: 'Come out from the grove, my
love and care,
And round my golden tent like lambs
rejoice.'" 20

Thus did my mother say, and kissèd me;
And thus I say to little English boy.
When I from black, and he from white
cloud free,
And round the tent of God like lambs
we joy,

I'll shade him from the heat, till he can
bear 25
To lean in joy upon our Father's knee;
And then I'll stand and stroke his silver
hair,
And be like him, and he will then love
me.

From SONGS OF EXPERIENCE

THE CLOD AND THE PEBBLE

"Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a heaven in hell's despair."

So sung a little clod of clay, 5
Trodden with the cattle's feet,
But a pebble of the brook
Warbled out these metres meet:

"Love seeketh only Self to please,
To bind another to its delight, 10
Joys in another's loss of ease,
And builds a hell in heaven's despite."

THE SICK ROSE

O Rose, thou art sick!
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed 5
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

THE TIGER

Tiger, tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies 5
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder and what art 10
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And, when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? and what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp 15
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
And watered heaven with their tears,
Did He smile His work to see?
Did He who made the lamb make thee? 20

Tiger, tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

THE SUNFLOWER

Ah, Sunflower! weary of time,
Who countest the steps of the sun,
Seeking after that sweet golden clime,
Where the traveller's journey is done;

Where the youth pined away with desire, 5
And the pale virgin shrouded in snow,
Arise from their graves, and aspire
Where my Sunflower wishes to go.

From AUGURIES OF INNOCENCE

To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower;
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.

From MILTON

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the countenance divine 5
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire! 10
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem 15
In England's green and pleasant land.

GEORGE CRABBE (1754-1832)

From THE VILLAGE, Book I

The village life, and every care that
reigns
O'er youthful peasants and declining
swains;
What labor yields, and what, that labor
past,
Age, in its hour of languor, finds at last:
What form the real picture of the poor, 5
Demand a song—the Muse can give no
more.

Fled are those times, when, in harmoni-
ous strains,
The rustic poet praised his native plains:

No shepherds now, in smooth alternate
verse,
Their country's beauty or their nymphs'
rehearse; 10
Yet still for these we frame the tender
strain,
Still in our lays fond Corydons complain,
And shepherds' boys their amorous pains
reveal,
The only pains, alas! they never feel.
On Mincio's banks, in Cæsar's bounte-
ous reign, 15
If Titurus found the Golden Age again,
Must sleepy bards the flattering dream
prolong,
Mechanic echoes of the Mantuan song?
From Truth and Nature shall we widely
stray,
Where Virgil, not where Fancy, leads the
way? 20
Yes, thus the Muses sing of happy
swains,
Because the Muses never knew their
pains:
They boast their peasants' pipes; but peas-
ants now
Resign their pipes and plod behind the
plough;
And few amid the rural tribe have time 25
To number syllables, and play with
rhyme;
Save honest Duck, what son of verse
could share
The poet's rapture and the peasant's care?
Or the great labors of the field degrade,
With the new peril of a poorer trade? 30
From this chief cause these idle praises
spring,
That themes so easy few forbear to sing;
For no deep thought the trifling subjects
ask;
To sing of shepherds is an easy task;
The happy youth assumes the common
strain, 35
A nymph his mistress, and himself a swain;
With no sad scenes he clouds his tuneful
prayer,
But all, to look like her, is painted fair.
I grant indeed that fields and flocks have
charms
For him that grazes or for him that farms;
But when amid such pleasing scenes I
trace 41
The poor laborious natives of the place,

And see the mid-day sun with fervid ray
On their bare heads and dewy temples
play;
While some, with feebler heads and fainter
hearts 45
Deplore their fortune, yet sustain their
parts—
Then shall I dare these real ills to hide,
In tinsel trappings of poetic pride?
No; cast by Fortune on a frowning
coast,
Which neither groves nor happy valleys
boast; 50
Where other cares than those the Muse
relates,
And other shepherds dwell with other
mates;
By such examples taught, I paint the cot,
As Truth will paint it, and as bards will
not:
Nor you, ye poor, of lettered scorn com-
plain, 55
To you the smoothest song is smooth in
vain;
O'ercome by labor, and bowed down by
time,
Feel you the barren flattery of a rhyme?)
Can poets soothe you, when you pine for
bread,
By winding myrtles round your ruined
shed? 60
Can their light tales your weighty griefs
o'erpower,
Or glad with airy mirth the toilsome hour?
Lo! where the heath, with withering
bake grown o'er,
Lends the light turf that warms the neigh-
boring poor;
From thence a length of burning sand ap-
pears, 65
Where the thin harvest waves its withered
ears.
Rank weeds, that every art and care defy,
Reign o'er the land, and rob the blighted
rye;
There thistles stretch their prickly arms
afar,
And to the ragged infant threaten war; 70
There poppies, nodding, mock the hope of
toil,
There the blue bugloss paints the sterile
soil;
Hardy and high, above the slender sheaf,
The slimy mallow waves her silky leaf;

O'er the young shoot the charlock throws
 a shade, 75
 And clasping tares cling round the sickly
 blade;
 With mingled tints the rocky coasts
 abound,
 And a sad splendor vainly shines around.
 So looks the nymph whom wretched arts
 adorn,
 Betrayed by man, then left for man to
 scorn; 80
 Whose cheek in vain assumes the mimic
 rose,
 While her sad eyes the troubled breast
 disclose:
 Whose outward splendor is but folly's
 dress,
 Exposing most when most it gilds distress.
 Here joyless roam a wild amphibious
 race, 85
 With sullen woe displayed in every face;
 Who far from civil arts and social fly,
 And scowl at strangers with suspicious
 eye.
 Here too the lawless merchant of the
 main
 Draws from his plough the intoxicated
 swain; 90
 Want only claimed the labor of the day,
 But vice now steals his nightly rest away.
 Where are the swains, who, daily labor
 done,
 With rural games played down the setting
 sun;
 Who struck with matchless force the
 bounding ball, 95
 Or made the ponderous quoit obliquely
 fall;
 While some huge Ajax, terrible and strong,
 Engaged some artful stripling of the
 throng,
 And fell beneath him, foiled, while far
 around
 Hoarse triumph rose, and rocks returned
 the sound? 100
 Where now are these?—Beneath yon cliff
 they stand,
 To show the freighted pinnacle where to
 land;
 To load the ready steed with guilty haste,
 To fly in terror o'er the pathless waste,
 Or, when detected, in their straggling
 course, 105
 To foil their foes by cunning or by force;

Or, yielding part (which equal knaves de-
 mand),
 To gain a lawless passport through the
 land.

From THE BOROUGH

Old Peter Grimes made fishing his em-
 ploy;
 His wife he cabined with him and his boy,
 And seemed that life laborious to enjoy.
 To town came quiet Peter with his fish,
 And had of all a civil word and wish. 5
 He left his trade upon the Sabbath day,
 And took young Peter in his hand to pray:
 But soon the stubborn boy from care broke
 loose,
 At first refused, then added his abuse;
 His father's love he scorned, his power
 defied, 10
 But, being drunk, wept sorely when he
 died.

WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES (1762-1850)

TIME

O Time! who knowest a lenient hand to
 lay
 Softest on sorrow's wound, and slowly
 thence,
 Lulling to sad repose the weary sense,
 The faint pang stealest, unperceived,
 away;
 On thee I rest my only hope at last, 5
 And think when thou hast dried the bitter
 tear
 That flows in vain o'er all my soul held
 dear,
 I may look back on every sorrow past,
 And meet life's peaceful evening with a
 smile:
 As some lone bird, at day's departing hour,
 Sings in the sunbeam, of the transient
 shower 11
 Forgetful, though its wings are wet the
 while:
 Yet, ah! how much must that poor heart
 endure
 Which hopes from thee, and thee alone,
 a cure.

HOPE

As one who, long by wasting sickness
worn,
Weary has watched the lingering night,
and heard,
Heartless, the carol of the matin bird
Salute his lonely porch, now first at
morn
Goes forth, leaving his melancholy bed; 5
He the green slope and level meadow
views,
Delightful bathed in slow-ascending dew;
Or marks the clouds that o'er the moun-
tain's head
In varying forms fantastic wander white;
Or turns his ear to every random song 10
Heard the green river's winding marge
along,
The while each sense is steeped in still
delight:
With such delight o'er all my heart I
feel
Sweet Hope! thy fragrance pure and
healing incense steal.

TO THE RIVER TWEED

O Tweed! a stranger, that with wandering
feet
O'er hill and dale has journeyed many a
mile
(If so his weary thoughts he might be-
guile),
Delighted turns thy beauteous scenes to
greet.
The waving branches that romantic
bend
O'er thy tall banks, a soothing charm
bestow; 6
The murmurs of thy wandering wave
below
Seem to his ear the pity of a friend.
Delightful stream! though now along thy
shore,
When spring returns in all her wonted
pride, 10
The shepherd's distant pipe is heard no
more,
Yet here with pensive peace I could abide,
Far from the stormy world's tumultuous
roar,
To muse upon thy banks at eventide.

BAMBOROUGH CASTLE

Ye holy towers that shade the wave-worn
steep,
Long may ye rear your agèd brows sub-
lime,
Though, hurrying silent by, relentless time
Assail you, and the winds of winter sweep
Round your dark battlements; for far
from halls 5
Of Pride, here Charity hath fixed her seat;
Oft listening tearful when the wild winds
beat
With hollow bodings round your ancient
walls;
And Pity, at the dark and stormy hour
Of midnight, when the moon is hid on
high, 10
Keeps her lone watch upon the topmost
tower,
And turns her ear to each expiring cry,
Blest if her aid some fainting wretch
may save,
And snatch him cold and speechless
from the wave.

WRITTEN AT TYNEMOUTH AFTER
A TEMPESTUOUS VOYAGE

As slow I climbed the cliff's ascending
side,
Much musing on the track of terror past,
When o'er the dark wave rode the howling
blast,
Pleased I look back, and view the tranquil
tide
That laves the pebbled shore: and now the
beam 5
Of evening smiles on the gray battlement,
And yon forsaken tower that Time has
rent:—
The lifted oar far off with silver gleam
Is touched, and hushed is all the billowy
deep!
Soothed by the scene, thus on tired Na-
ture's breast 10
A stillness slowly steals, and kindred rest;
While sea-sounds lull her, as she sinks
to sleep,
Like melodies which mourn upon the
lyre,
Waked by the breeze, and, as they
mourn, expire!

THE AGE OF ROMANTICISM

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)

From THE PREFACE TO THE LYRICAL BALLADS

The principal object proposed in these poems was to choose incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them, throughout, as far as was possible, in a selection of language really used by men, and, at the same time, to throw over them a certain coloring of imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual aspect; and, further, and [10 above all, to make these incidents and situations interesting by tracing in them, truly though not ostentatiously, the primary laws of our nature: chiefly, as far as regards the manner in which we associate ideas in a state of excitement. Humble and rustic life was generally chosen, because, in that condition, the essential passions of the heart find a better soil in which they can attain [20 their maturity, are less under restraint, and speak a plainer and more emphatic language; because in that condition of life our elementary feelings co-exist in a state of greater simplicity, and, consequently, may be more accurately contemplated, and more forcibly communicated; because the manners of rural life germinate from those elementary feelings; and from the necessary character of [30 rural occupations, are more easily comprehended, and are more durable; and, lastly, because in that condition the passions of men are incorporated with the beautiful and permanent forms of nature. The language, too, of these men has been adopted (purified indeed from what appear to be its real defects, from all lasting and rational causes of dislike or disgust) because such men hourly [40 communicate with the best objects from which the best part of language is originally derived; and because, from their

rank in society and the sameness and narrow circle of their intercourse, being less under the influence of social vanity, they convey their feelings and notions in simple and unelaborated expressions. Accordingly such a language, arising out of repeated experience and regular [50 feelings, is a more permanent, and a far more philosophical language, than that which is frequently substituted for it by poets, who think that they are conferring honor upon themselves and their art, in proportion as they separate themselves from the sympathies of men, and indulge in arbitrary and capricious habits of expression, in order to furnish food for fickle tastes, and fickle appetites, of their [60 own creation.

I cannot, however, be insensible to the present outcry against the triviality and meanness, both of thought and language, which some of my contemporaries have occasionally introduced into their metrical compositions; and I acknowledge that this defect, where it exists, is more dishonorable to the writer's own character than false refinement or arbitrary in- [70 novation, though I should contend at the same time, that it is far less pernicious in the sum of its consequences. From such verses the poems in these volumes will be found distinguished at least by one mark of difference, that each of them has a worthy *purpose*. Not that I always began to write with a distinct purpose formally conceived; but habits of meditation have, I trust, so prompted and [80 regulated my feelings, that my descriptions of such objects as strongly excite those feelings, will be found to carry along with them a *purpose*. If this opinion is erroneous, I can have little right to the name of a poet. For all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: and though this be true, poems to which any value can be attached were never produced on any variety of sub- [90 jects but by a man, who, being possessed of more than usual organic sensibility,

had also thought long and deeply. For our continued influxes of feeling are modified and directed by our thoughts, which are indeed the representatives of all our past feelings; and, as by contemplating the relation of these general representatives to each other, we discover what is really important to men, so, [100 by the repetition and continuance of this act, our feelings will be connected with important subjects, till at length, if we be originally possessed of much sensibility, such habits of mind will be produced, that, by obeying blindly and mechanically the impulses of those habits, we shall describe objects, and utter sentiments, of such a nature, and in such connection with each other, that the understanding of the reader must necessarily be in some degree enlightened, and his affection strengthened and purified.

It has been said that each of these poems has a purpose. Another circumstance must be mentioned which distinguishes these poems from the popular poetry of the day; it is this, that the feeling therein developed gives importance to the action and situation, and not the [120 action and situation to the feeling.

A sense of false modesty shall not prevent me from asserting, that the reader's attention is pointed to this mark of distinction, far less for the sake of these particular poems than from the general importance of the subject. The subject is indeed important! For the human mind is capable of being excited without the application of gross and violent stimuli; [130 lants; and he must have a very faint perception of its beauty and dignity who does not know this, and who does not further know, that one being is elevated above another, in proportion as he possesses this capability. It has therefore appeared to me, that to endeavor to produce or enlarge this capability is one of the best services in which, at any period, a writer can be engaged; but this [140 service, excellent at all times, is especially so at the present day. For a multitude of causes, unknown to former times, are now acting with a combined force to blunt the discriminating powers of the mind, and, unfitting it for all voluntary exertion,

to reduce it to a state of almost savage torpor. The most effective of these causes are the great national events which are daily taking place, and the increasing [150 accumulation of men in cities, where the uniformity of their occupations produces a craving for extraordinary incident, which the rapid communication of intelligence hourly gratifies. To this tendency of life and manners the literature and theatrical exhibitions of the country have conformed themselves. The invaluable works of our elder writers, I had almost said the works of Shakespeare [160 and Milton, are driven into neglect by frantic novels, sickly and stupid German tragedies, and deluges of idle and extravagant stories in verse.—When I think upon this degrading thirst after outrageous stimulation, I am almost ashamed to have spoken of the feeble endeavor made in these volumes to counteract it; and, reflecting upon the magnitude of the general evil, I should be [170 oppressed with no dishonorable melancholy, had I not a deep impression of certain inherent and indestructible qualities of the human mind, and likewise of certain powers in the great and permanent objects that act upon it, which are equally inherent and indestructible; and were there not added to this impression a belief that the time is approaching when the evil will be systematically opposed, [180 by men of greater powers, and with far more distinguished success.

Having dwelt thus long on the subjects and aim of these poems, I shall request the reader's permission to apprise him of a few circumstances relating to their *style*, in order, among other reasons, that he may not censure me for not having performed what I never attempted. The reader will find that personifications [190 of abstract ideas rarely occur in these volumes; and are utterly rejected as an ordinary device to elevate the style, and raise it above prose. My purpose was to imitate, and, as far as is possible, to adopt the very language of men; and assuredly such personifications do not make any natural or regular part of that language. They are, indeed, a figure of speech occasionally prompted by passion, and [200

I have made use of them as such; but I have endeavored utterly to reject them as a mechanical device of style, or as a family language which writers in meter seem to lay claim to by prescription. I have wished to keep the reader in the company of flesh and blood, persuaded that by so doing I shall interest him. Others who pursue a different track will interest him likewise; I do not interfere with their claim, but wish to prefer a claim of my own. There will also be found in these pieces little of what is usually called poetic diction; as much pains has been taken to avoid it as is ordinarily taken to produce it; this has been done for the reason already alleged, to bring my language near to the language of men, and further, because the pleasure which I have proposed to myself to impart, is of a kind very different from that which is supposed by many persons to be the proper object of poetry. Without being culpably particular, I do not know how to give my reader a more exact notion of the style in which it was my wish and intention to write, than by informing him that I have at all times endeavored to look steadily at my subject; consequently there is, I hope, in these poems little falsehood of description, and my ideas are expressed in language fitted to their respective importance. Something must have been gained by this practice, as it is friendly to one property of all good poetry, namely, good sense; but it has necessarily cut me off from a large portion of phrases and figures of speech which from father to son have long been regarded as the common inheritance of poets. I have also thought it expedient to restrict myself still further, having abstained from the use of many expressions, in themselves proper and beautiful, but which have been foolishly repeated by bad poets, till such feelings of disgust are connected with them as it is scarcely possible by any art of association to overpower.

* * * * *

I have said that poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity; the emotion is con-

templated, till, by a species of reaction, the tranquillity gradually disappears, and an emotion, kindred to that which was before the subject of contemplation, is gradually produced, and does itself actually exist in the mind. In this mood successful composition generally begins, and in a mood similar to this it is carried on; but the emotion of whatever kind, and in whatever degree, from various causes, is qualified by various pleasures, so that in describing any passions whatsoever, which are voluntarily described, the mind will, upon the whole, be in a state of enjoyment. If nature be thus cautious to preserve in a state of enjoyment a being so employed, the poet ought to profit by the lesson held forth to him, and ought especially to take care, that, whatever passions he communicates to his reader, those passions, if his reader's mind be sound and vigorous, should always be accompanied with an overbalance of pleasure. Now the music of harmonious metrical language, the sense of difficulty overcome, and the blind association of pleasure which has been previously received from works of rime or meter of the same or similar construction, an indistinct perception perpetually renewed of language closely resembling that of real life, and yet, in the circumstance of meter, differing from it so widely—all these imperceptibly make up a complex feeling of delight, which is of the most important use in tempering the painful feeling which is always found intermingled with powerful descriptions of the deeper passions. This effect is always produced in pathetic and impassioned poetry; while, in lighter compositions, the ease and gracefulness with which the poet manages his numbers are themselves confessedly a principal source of the gratification of the reader. All that it is necessary to say, however, upon this subject, may be effected by affirming, what few persons will deny, that, of two descriptions, either of passions, manners, or characters, each of them equally well executed, the one in prose and the other in verse, the verse will be read a hundred times where the prose is read once.

LINES WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sat reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant
thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link 5
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green
bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths; 10
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:
But the least motion which they made 15
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there. 20

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

EXPOSTULATION AND REPLY

"Why, William, on that old grey stone,
Thus for the length of half a day,
Why, William, sit you thus alone,
And dream your time away?

"Where are your books?—that light be-
queathed 5
To beings else forlorn and blind!
Up! up! and drink the spirit breathed
From dead men to their kind.

"You look round on your Mother
Earth,
As if she for no purpose bore you; 10
As if you were her first-born birth,
And none had lived before you!"

One morning thus, by Esthwaite lake,
When life was sweet, I knew not why,
To me my good friend Matthew spake, 15
And thus I made reply:

"The eye—it cannot choose but see;
We cannot bid the ear be still;
Our bodies feel, where'er they be,
Against or with our will. 20

"Nor less I deem that there are Powers
Which of themselves our minds impress;
That we can feed this mind of ours
In a wise passiveness.

"Think you, 'mid all this mighty sum 25
Of things forever speaking,
That nothing of itself will come,
But we must still be seeking?

"—Then ask not wherefore, here, alone,
Conversing as I may, 30
I sit upon this old grey stone,
And dream my time away."

THE TABLES TURNED

An Evening Scene on the same Subject

Up! up! my friend, and quit your books;
Or surely you'll grow double:
Up! up! my friend, and clear your looks;
Why all this toil and trouble?

The sun, above the mountain's head, 5
A freshening lustre mellow
Through all the long green fields has spread,
His first sweet evening yellow.

Books! 'tis a dull and endless strife: 10
Come, hear the woodland linnet,
How sweet his music! on my life
There's more of wisdom in it.

And hark! how blithe the throistle sings!
He, too, is no mean preacher:
Come forth into the light of things, 15
Let Nature be your teacher.

She has a world of ready wealth,
Our minds and hearts to bless—
Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health,
Truth breathed by cheerfulness. 20

One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

Sweet is the lore which Nature brings; 25
Our meddling intellect
Misshapes the beauteous forms of things:—
We murder to dissect.

Enough of Science and of Art;
Close up those barren leaves; 30
Come forth, and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives.

LINES COMPOSED A FEW MILES
ABOVE TINTERN ABBEY, ON RE-
VISITING THE BANKS OF THE
WYE DURING A TOUR

JULY 13, 1798

Five years have past; five summers, with
the length
Of five long winters! and again I hear
These waters, rolling from their mountain-
springs
With a soft inland murmur.—Once again
Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs, 5
That on a wild secluded scene impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and connect
The landscape with the quiet of the
sky.
The day is come when I again repose
Here, under this dark sycamore, and view
These plots of cottage-ground, these
orchard-tufts, 11
Which at this season, with their unripe
fruits,
Are clad in one green hue, and lose them-
selves
'Mid groves and copses. Once again I see
These hedgerows, hardly hedgerows, little
lines 15
Of sportive wood run wild: these pastoral
farms,
Green to the very door; and wreaths of
smoke
Sent up, in silence, from among the trees!
With some uncertain notice, as might
seem

Of vagrant dwellers in the houseless woods,
Or of some hermit's cave, where by his
fire 21
The hermit sits alone.

These beauteous forms,
Through a long absence, have not been
to me

As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:
But oft, in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din 25
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them
In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,
Felt in the blood, and felt along the
heart;

And passing even into my purer mind,
With tranquil restoration:—feelings too 30
Of unremembered pleasure: such, perhaps,
As have no slight or trivial influence
On that best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love. Nor less, I trust,
To them I may have owed another gift, 36
Of aspect more sublime; that blessed
mood,

In which the burthen of the mystery,
In which the heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world, 40
Is lightened:—that serene and blessed
mood

In which the affections gently lead us on,—
Until, the breath of this corporeal frame
And even the motion of our human blood
Almost suspended, we are laid asleep 45
In body, and become a living soul:
While with an eye made quiet by the
power

Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.

If this

Be but a vain belief, yet, oh! how oft— 50
In darkness and amid the many shapes
Of joyless daylight; when the fretful stir
Unprofitable, and the fever of the world,
Have hung upon the beatings of my
heart—

How oft, in spirit, have I turned to thee, 55
O sylvan Wye! thou wanderer through the
woods,

How often has my spirit turned to thee!
And now, with gleams of half-extin-
guished thought,
With many recognitions dim and faint,
And somewhat of a sad perplexity, 60
The picture of the mind revives again:
While here I stand, not only with the sense

Of present pleasure, but with pleasing
thoughts

That in this moment there is life and food
For future years. And so I dare to hope, 65
Though changed, no doubt, from what
I was when first

I came among these hills; when like a roe
I bounded o'er the mountains, by the
sides

Of the deep rivers, and the lonely streams,
Wherever nature led: more like a man 70
Flying from something that he dreads,
than one

Who sought the thing he loved. For
nature then

(The coarser pleasures of my boyish days,
And their glad animal movements all gone
by)

To me was all in all.—I cannot paint 75
What then I was. The sounding cataract
Haunted me like a passion; the tall rock,
The mountain, and the deep and gloomy
wood,

Their colors and their forms, were then to
me

An appetite; a feeling and a love, 80
That had no need of a remoter charm,
By thought supplied, nor any interest
Unborrowed from the eye.—That time is
past,

And all its aching joys are now no more,
And all its dizzy raptures. Not for this 85
Faint I, nor mourn, nor murmur; other
gifts

Have followed; for such loss, I would
believe,

Abundant recompense. For I have
learned

To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing often-
times 90

The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample
power

To chasten and subdue. And I have
felt

A presence that disturbs me with the
joy

Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime, 95
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting
suns,

And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;

A motion and a spirit, that impels 100
All thinking things, all objects of all
thought,

And rolls through all things. Therefore
am I still

A lover of the meadows and the woods,
And mountains; and of all that we be-
hold

From this green earth; of all the mighty
world 105

Of eye, and ear,—both what they half
create,

And what perceive; well pleased to recog-
nize

In nature and the language of the sense,
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the
nurse,

The guide, the guardian of my heart, and
soul 110

Of all my moral being.

Nor perchance,

If I were not thus taught, should I the
more

Suffer my genial spirits to decay:

For thou art with me here upon the banks
Of this fair river; thou my dearest friend,
My dear, dear friend; and in thy voice I
catch 116

The language of my former heart, and
read

My former pleasures in the shooting lights
Of thy wild eyes. Oh! yet a little while

May I behold in thee what I was once, 120
My dear, dear sister! and this prayer I
make,

Knowing that Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life, to
lead

From joy to joy: for she can so inform 125
The mind that is within us, so impress

With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts, that neither evil
tongues,

Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish
men,

Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor
all 130

The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we be-
hold

Is full of blessings. Therefore let the
moon

Shine on thee in thy solitary walk; 135
And let the misty mountain-winds be
free

To blow against thee: and, in after years,
When these wild ecstasies shall be matured
Into a sober pleasure; when thy mind
Shall be a mansion for all lovely forms, 140
Thy memory be as a dwelling-place
For all sweet sounds and harmonies; oh!
then,

If solitude, or fear, or pain, or grief,
Should be thy portion, with what healing
thoughts

Of tender joy wilt thou remember me, 145
And these my exhortations! Nor, per-
chance—

If I should be where I no more can hear
Thy voice, nor catch from thy wild eyes
these gleams

Of past existence—wilt thou then forget
That on the banks of this delightful
stream 150

We stood together; and that I, so long
A worshipper of Nature, hither came
Unwearied in that service: rather say
With warmer love—oh! with far deeper
zeal

Of holier love. Nor wilt thou then forget,
That after many wanderings, many years
Of absence, these steep woods and lofty
cliffs, 157

And this green pastoral landscape, were
to me

More dear, both for themselves and for
thy sake!

LUCY GRAY; OR, SOLITUDE

Oft I had heard of Lucy Gray:
And, when I crossed the wild,
I chanced to see at break of day
The solitary child.

No mate, no comrade Lucy knew; 5
She dwelt on a wide moor,
—The sweetest thing that ever grew
Beside a human door!

You yet may spy the fawn at play,
The hare upon the green; 10
But the sweet face of Lucy Gray
Will never more be seen.

“To-night will be a stormy night—
You to the town must go;
And take a lantern, Child, to light 15
Your mother through the snow.”

“That, Father! will I gladly do:
’Tis scarcely afternoon—
The minster-clock has just struck two,
And yonder is the moon!” 20

At this the father raised his hook,
And snapped a faggot-band;
He plied his work;—and Lucy took
The lantern in her hand.

Not blither is the mountain roe: 25
With many a wanton stroke
Her feet disperse the powdery snow,
That rises up like smoke.

The storm came on before its time:
She wandered up and down; 30
And many a hill did Lucy climb:
But never reached the town.

The wretched parents all that night
Went shouting far and wide;
But there was neither sound nor sight 35
To serve them for a guide.

At daybreak on a hill they stood
That overlooked the moor;
And thence they saw the bridge of wood,
A furlong from their door. 40

They wept—and, turning homeward,
cried,
“In heaven we all shall meet;”
—When in the snow the mother spied
The print of Lucy’s feet.

Then downwards from the steep hill’s
edge 45
They tracked the footmarks small;
And through the broken hawthorn hedge,
And by the long stone-wall;

And then an open field they crossed:
The marks were still the same; 50
They tracked them on, nor ever lost;
And to the bridge they came.

They followed from the snowy bank
Those footmarks, one by one,
Into the middle of the plank; 55
And further there were none!

—Yet some maintain that to this day
 She is a living child;
 That you may see sweet Lucy Gray
 Upon the lonesome wild. 60

O'er rough and smooth she trips along,
 And never looks behind;
 And sings a solitary song
 That whistles in the wind.

SHE DWELT AMONG THE UN- TRODDEN WAYS

She dwelt among the untrodden ways
 Beside the springs of Dove,
 A maid whom there were none to praise
 And very few to love:

A violet by a mossy stone 5
 Half hidden from the eye!
 —Fair as a star, when only one
 Is shining in the sky.

She lived unknown, and few could know 10
 When Lucy ceased to be;
 But she is in her grave, and, oh,
 The difference to me!

THREE YEARS SHE GREW

Three years she grew in sun and shower,
 Then Nature said, "A lovelier flower
 On earth was never sown;
 This child I to myself will take;
 She shall be mine, and I will make 5
 A lady of my own.

"Myself will to my darling be
 Both law and impulse: and with me
 The girl, in rock and plain,
 In earth and heaven, in glade and bower, 10
 Shall feel an overseeing power
 To kindle or restrain.

"She shall be sportive as the fawn
 That wild with glee across the lawn,
 Or up the mountain springs; 15
 And hers shall be the breathing balm,
 And hers the silence and the calm
 Of mute insensate things.

"The floating clouds their state shall lend
 To her; for her the willow bend; 20
 Nor shall she fail to see

Even in the motions of the storm
 Grace that shall mould the maiden's form
 By silent sympathy.

"The stars of midnight shall be dear 25
 To her; and she shall lean her ear
 In many a secret place
 Where rivulets dance their wayward
 round,
 And beauty born of murmuring sound
 Shall pass into her face. 30

"And vital feelings of delight
 Shall rear her form to stately height,
 Her virgin bosom swell;
 Such thoughts to Lucy I will give
 While she and I together live 35
 Here in this happy dell."

Thus Nature spake—The work was done—
 How soon my Lucy's race was run!
 She died, and left to me
 This heath, this calm, and quiet scene; 40
 The memory of what has been,
 And never more will be.

A SLUMBER DID MY SPIRIT SEAL

A slumber did my spirit seal;
 I had no human fears:
 She seemed a thing that could not feel
 The touch of earthly years.

No motion has she now, no force; 5
 She neither hears nor sees;
 Rolled round in earth's diurnal course,
 With rocks, and stones, and trees.

THE PRELUDE

From Book I

CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOLTIME

And in the frosty season, when the sun
 Was set, and visible for many a mile
 The cottage windows blazed through twi-
 light gloom,
 I heeded not their summons: happy time
 It was indeed for all of us—for me
 It was a time of rapture! Clear and
 loud 430

The village clock tolled six,—I wheeled
about,
Proud and exulting like an untired horse
That cares not for his home. All shod
with steel,
We hissed along the polished ice in games
Confederate, imitative of the chase 435
And woodland pleasures,—the resounding
horn,
The pack loud chiming, and the hunted
hare.
So through the darkness and the cold we
flew,
And not a voice was idle; with the din
Smitten, the precipices rang aloud; 440
The leafless trees and every icy crag
Tinkled like iron; while far distant hills
Into the tumult sent an alien sound
Of melancholy not unnoticed, while the
stars
Eastward were sparkling clear, and in the
west 445
The orange sky of evening died away.
Not seldom from the uproar I retired
Into a silent bay, or sportively
Glanced sideways, leaving the tumultuous
throng,
To cut across the reflex of a star 450
That fled, and, flying still before me,
gleamed
Upon the glassy plain; and oftentimes,
When we had given our bodies to the wind,
And all the shadowy banks on either side
Came sweeping through the darkness,
spinning still 455
The rapid line of motion, then at once
Have I, reclining back upon my heels,
Stopped short; yet still the solitary cliffs
Wheeled by me—even as if the earth had
rolled
With visible motion her diurnal round! 460
Behind me did they stretch in solemn
train,
Feebler and feebler, and I stood and
watched
Till all was tranquil as a dreamless sleep.

From BOOK IX

RESIDENCE IN FRANCE

France lured me forth; the realm that I
had crossed
So lately, journeying toward the snow-
clad Alps. 35

But now, relinquishing the scrip and staff,
And all enjoyment which the summer sun
Sheds round the steps of those who meet
the day
With motion constant as his own, I went
Prepared to sojourn in a pleasant town, 40
Washed by the current of the stately Loire.
Through Paris lay my readiest course,
and there
Sojourning a few days, I visited
In haste, each spot of old or recent fame.

* * * * *

Where silent zephyrs sported with the
dust
Of the Bastille, I sate in the open sun,
And from the rubbish gathered up a stone,
And pocketed the relic, in the guise 70
Of an enthusiast: yet, in honest truth,
I looked for something that I could not
find,
Affecting more emotion than I felt;
For 'tis most certain, that these various
sights,
However potent their first shock, with
me 75
Appeared to recompense the traveller's
pains
Less than the painted Magdalene of Le
Brun,
A beauty exquisitely wrought, with hair
Dishevelled, gleaming eyes, and rueful
cheek
Pale and bedropped with overflowing
tears. 80

* * * * *

I stood 'mid those concussions, uncon-
cerned,
Tranquil almost, and careless as a flower
Glassed in a green-house, or a parlor
shrub
That spreads its leaves in unmolested
peace,
While every bush and tree, the country
through, 90
Is shaking to the roots.

* * * * *

A band of military Officers, 125
Then stationed in the city, were the chief
Of my associates: some of these wore
swords
That had been seasoned in the wars, and
all

Were men well-born; the chivalry of
France.

In age and temper differing, they had
yet 130

One spirit ruling in each heart; alike
(Save only one, hereafter to be named)

Were bent upon undoing what was done:
This was their rest and only hope; there-
with

No fear had they of bad becoming worse,
For bad to them was come; nor would
have stirred, 136

Or deemed it worth a moment's thought to
stir,

In anything, save only as the act
Looked thitherward. One, reckoning by
years,

Was in the prime of manhood, and ere-
while 140

He had sate lord in many tender hearts;
Though heedless of such honors now, and
changed:

His temper was quite mastered by the
times,

And they had blighted him, had eaten
away

The beauty of his person, doing wrong 145
Alike to body and to mind: his port,

Which once had been erect and open,
now

Was stooping and contracted, and a face
Endowed by Nature with her fairest gifts
Of symmetry and light and bloom, ex-
pressed, 150

As much as any that was ever seen,
A ravage out of season, made by thoughts
Unhealthy and vexatious. . . .

'Twas in truth an hour
Of universal ferment; mildest men

Were agitated; and commotions, strife
Of passion and opinion, filled the walls
Of peaceful houses with unquiet sounds. 165
The soil of life was, at that time,
Too hot to tread upon.

* * * * *

Along that very Loire, with festal
mirth 431

Resounding at all hours, and innocent yet
Of civil slaughter, was our frequent walk.

. . . And when we chanced
One day to meet a hunger-bitten girl, 510
Who crept along fitting her languid gait
Unto a heifer's motion, by a cord

Tied to her arm, and picking thus from
the lane

Its sustenance, while the girl with pallid
hands

Was busy knitting in a heartless mood 515
Of solitude, and at the sight my friend

In agitation said, "Tis against *that*
That we are fighting," I with him believed
That a benignant spirit was abroad

Which might not be withstood, that
poverty 520

Abject as this would in a little time
Be found no more, that we should see the
earth

Unthwarted in her wish to recompense
The meek, the lowly, patient child of toil,

All institutes for ever blotted out 525
That legalised exclusion, empty pomp

Abolished, sensual state and cruel power
Whether by edict of the one or few;

And finally, as sum and crown of all,
Should see the people having a strong
hand 530

In framing their own laws; whence better
days

To all mankind.

From Book X

RESIDENCE IN FRANCE (*continued*)

Cheered with this hope, to Paris I re-
turned,

And ranged, with ardor heretofore unfelt,
The spacious city, and in progress passed
The prison where the unhappy Monarch
lay, 51

Associate with his children and his wife
In bondage; and the palace, lately stormed
With roar of cannon by a furious host.

I crossed the square (an empty area then!)
Of the Carrousel, where so late had lain 56
The dead, upon the dying heaped, and
gazed

On this and other spots, as doth a man
Upon a volume whose contents he knows
Are memorable, but from him locked up,

Being written in a tongue he cannot read,
So that he questions the mute leaves
with pain, 62

And half upbraids their silence. But that
night

I felt most deeply in what world I was,
What ground I trod on, and what air
I breathed. 65

High was my room and lonely, near the
 roof
 Of a large mansion or hotel, a lodge
 That would have pleased me in more quiet
 times;
 Nor was it wholly without pleasure then.
 With unextinguished taper I kept watch,
 Reading at intervals; the fear gone by 71
 Pressed on me almost like a fear to come.
 I thought of those September massacres,
 Divided from me by one little month,
 Saw them and touched: the rest was con-
 jured up 75
 From tragic fictions or true history,
 Remembrances and dim admonishments.
 The horse is taught his manage, and no
 star
 Of wildest course but treads back his own
 steps;
 For the spent hurricane the air provides 80
 As fierce a successor; the tide retreats
 But to return out of its hiding-place
 In the great deep; all things have second
 birth;
 The earthquake is not satisfied at once;
 And in this way I wrought upon myself, 85
 Until I seemed to hear a voice that cried,
 To the whole city, "Sleep no more."
 The trance
 Fled with the voice to which it had given
 birth;
 But vainly comments of a calmer mind
 Promised soft peace and sweet forgetful-
 ness. 90
 The place, all hushed and silent as it was,
 Appeared unfit for the repose of night,
 Defenceless as a wood where tigers roam.

MICHAEL

A PASTORAL POEM

If from the public way you turn your
 steps
 Up the tumultuous brook of Greenhead
 Ghyll,
 You will suppose that with an upright
 path
 Your feet must struggle; in such bold
 ascent
 The pastoral mountains front you face to
 face. 5
 But courage! for around that boisterous
 brook

The mountains have all opened out them-
 selves,
 And made a hidden valley of their own.
 No habitation can be seen: but they
 Who journey thither find themselves alone
 With a few sheep, with rocks and stones,
 and kites 11
 That overhead are sailing in the sky.
 It is in truth an utter solitude;
 Nor should I have made mention of this
 Dell
 But for one object which you might pass
 by, 15
 Might see and notice not. Beside the
 brook-
 Appears a straggling heap of unhewn
 stones!
 And to that simple object appertains
 A story, unenriched with strange events,
 Yet not unfit, I deem, for the fireside, 20
 Or for the summer shade. It was the first
 Of those domestic tales that spake to me
 Of shepherds, dwellers in the valleys, men
 Whom I already loved; not verily
 For their own sakes, but for the fields and
 hills 25
 Where was their occupation and abode.
 And hence this Tale, while I was yet a boy
 Careless of books, yet having felt the
 power
 Of Nature, by the gentle agency
 Of natural objects, led me on to feel 30
 For passions that were not my own, and
 think
 (At random and imperfectly indeed)
 On man, the heart of man, and human
 life.
 Therefore, although it be a history
 Homely and rude, I will relate the same 35
 For the delight of a few natural hearts;
 And, with yet fonder feeling, for the sake
 Of youthful Poets who among these hills
 Will be my second self when I am gone.
 Upon the forest-side in Grasmere Vale
 There dwelt a Shepherd, Michael was his
 name; 41
 An old man, stout of heart, and strong of
 limb.
 His bodily frame had been from youth to
 age
 Of an unusual strength: his mind was keen,
 Intense, and frugal, apt for all affairs, 45
 And in his shepherd's calling he was
 prompt

And watchful more than ordinary men.
 Hence had he learned the meaning of all
 winds,
 Of blasts of every tone; and, oftentimes,
 When others heeded not, he heard the
 South 50
 Make subterraneous music, like the noise
 Of bagpipers on distant Highland hills.
 The Shepherd, at such warning, of his
 flock
 Bethought him, and he to himself would
 say,
 "The winds are now devising work for me!"
 And truly, at all times, the storm, that
 drives 56
 The traveller to a shelter, summoned him
 Up to the mountains; he had been alone
 Amid the heart of many thousand mists,
 That came to him and left him on the
 heights. 60
 So lived he till his eightieth year was
 past.
 And grossly that man errs, who should
 suppose
 That the green valleys, and the streams
 and rocks,
 Were things indifferent to the Shepherd's
 thoughts.
 Fields, where with cheerful spirits he had
 breathed 65
 The common air; hills, which with vigor-
 ous step
 He had so often climbed; which had im-
 pressed
 So many incidents upon his mind
 Of hardship, skill or courage, joy or fear;
 Which like a book preserved the memory
 Of the dumb animals whom he had
 saved, 71
 Had fed or sheltered, linking to such acts,
 The certainty of honorable gain;
 Those fields, those hills—what could they
 less?—had laid
 Strong hold on his affections, were to him
 A pleasurable feeling of blind love, 76
 The pleasure which there is in life itself.
 His days had not been passed in single-
 ness.
 His helpmate was a comely matron, old—
 Though younger than himself full twenty
 years. 80
 She was a woman of a stirring life,
 Whose heart was in her house: two wheels
 she had

Of antique form, this large for spinning
 wool,
 That small for flax; and if one wheel had
 rest,
 It was because the other was at work. 85
 The pair had but one inmate in their
 house,
 An only child, who had been born to
 them
 When Michael, telling o'er his years,
 began
 To deem that he was old,—in shepherd's
 phrase,
 With one foot in the grave. This only
 son, 90
 With two brave sheep-dogs tried in many
 a storm,
 The one of an inestimable worth,
 Made all their household. I may truly
 say,
 That they were as a proverb in the vale
 For endless industry. When day was
 gone, 95
 And from their occupations out of doors
 The son and father were come home, even
 then,
 Their labor did not cease; unless when
 all
 Turned to the cleanly supper-board, and
 there,
 Each with a mess of pottage and skimmed
 milk, 100
 Sat round the basket piled with oaten
 cakes,
 And their plain home-made cheese. Yet
 when the meal
 Was ended, Luke (for so the son was
 named)
 And his old father both betook them-
 selves
 To such convenient work as might employ
 Their hands by the fire-side; perhaps to
 card 106
 Wool for the housewife's spindle, or re-
 pair
 Some injury done to sickle, flail, or scythe,
 Or other implement of house or field.
 Down from the ceiling by the chimney's
 edge 110
 That in our ancient uncouth country
 style
 With huge and black projection over-
 browed
 Large space beneath, as duly as the light

Of day grew dim the housewife hung a
lamp;

An aged utensil, which had performed 115
Service beyond all others of its kind.

Early at evening did it burn and late,
Surviving comrade of uncounted hours,
Which going by from year to year had
found

And left the couple neither gay perhaps
Nor cheerful, yet with objects and with
hopes, 121

Living a life of eager industry.

And now, when Luke had reached his
eighteenth year,

There by the light of this old lamp they
sat,

Father and son, while far into the night
The housewife plied her own peculiar
work, 126

Making the cottage through the silent
hours

Murmur as with the sound of summer
flies.

This light was famous in its neighbor-
hood,

And was a public symbol of the life 130
That thrifty pair had lived. For, as it
chanced,

Their cottage on a plot of rising ground
Stood single, with large prospect, north
and south,

High into Easedale, up to Dunmail-
Raise,

And westward to the village near the
lake; 135

And from this constant light, so regular
And so far seen, the house itself, by all
Who dwelt within the limits of the vale,
Both old and young, was named The
Evening Star.

Thus living on through such a length of
years 140

The Shepherd, if he loved himself, must
needs

Have loved his helpmate; but to Mi-
chael's heart

This son of his old age was yet more
dear—

Less from instinctive tenderness, the same
Fond spirit that blindly works in the blood
of all— 145

Than that a child, more than all other
gifts

That earth can offer to declining man,

Brings hope with it; and forward looking
thoughts,

And stirrings of inquietude, when they
By tendency of nature needs must fail. 150
Exceeding was the love he bare to him,
His heart and his heart's joy! For often-
times

Old Michael, while he was a babe in arms,
Had done him female service, not alone
For pastime and delight, as is the use 155
Of fathers, but with patient mind en-
forced

To acts of tenderness; and he had rocked
His cradle as with a woman's gentle hand.

And, in a later time, ere yet the boy
Had put on boy's attire, did Michael
love, 160

Albeit of a stern unbending mind,
To have the young one in his sight, when
he

Wrought in the field, or on his shepherd's
stool

Sat with a fettered sheep before him
stretched,

Under the large old oak, that near his
door 165

Stood single, and, from matchless depth
of shade,

Chosen for the shearer's covert from the
sun,

Thence in our rustic dialect was called
The Clipping Tree, a name which yet it
bears.

There, while they two were sitting in the
shade, 170

With others round them, earnest all and
blithe,

Would Michael exercise his heart with
looks

Of fond correction and reproof bestowed
Upon the child, if he disturbed the sheep
By catching at their legs, or with his
shouts 175

Scared them, while they lay still beneath
the shears.

And when by Heaven's good grace the
boy grew up

A healthy lad, and carried in his cheek
Two steady roses that were five years old,
Then Michael from a winter coppice cut
With his own hand a sapling, which he
hooped 181

With iron, making it throughout in all
Due requisites a perfect shepherd's staff,

And gave it to the boy; wherewith
equipped

He as a watchman oftentimes was placed
At gate or gap, to stem or turn the flock;
And, to his office prematurely called, 187
There stood the urchin, as you will divine,
Something between a hindrance and a
help;

And for this course not always, I be-
lieve, 190

Receiving from his father hire of praise;
Though nought was left undone which
staff or voice,

Or looks, or threatening gestures, could
perform.

But soon as Luke, full ten years old,
could stand

Against the mountain blasts; and to the
heights, 195

Not fearing toil, nor length of weary ways,
He with his father daily went, and they
Were as companions, why should I relate
That objects which the Shepherd loved
before

Were dearer now? that from the boy there
came 200

Feelings and emanations—things which
were

Light to the sun and music to the wind;
And that the old man's heart seemed born
again?

Thus in his father's sight the boy grew up;
And now when he had reached his eight-
eenth year, 205

He was his comfort and his daily hope.
While in this sort the simple household
lived

From day to day, to Michael's ear there
came

Distressful tidings. Long before the time
Of which I speak, the Shepherd had been
bound 210

In surety for his brother's son, a man
Of an industrious life, and ample means;
But unforeseen misfortunes suddenly
Had pressed upon him; and old Michael
now

Was summoned to discharge the forfei-
ture, 215

A grievous penalty, but little less
Than half his substance. This unlooked
for claim

At the first hearing, for a moment took
More hope out of his life than he supposed

That any old man ever could have lost. 220
As soon as he had armed himself with
strength

To look his trouble in the face, it seemed
The Shepherd's sole resource to sell at
once

A portion of his patrimonial fields.

Such was his first resolve; he thought
again, 225

And his heart failed him. "Isabel," said
he,

Two evenings after he had heard the news,
"I have been toiling more than seventy
years,

And in the open sunshine of God's love
Have we all lived; yet if these fields of
ours 230

Should pass into a stranger's hand, I think
That I could not lie quiet in my grave.

Our lot is a hard lot; the sun himself
Has scarcely been more diligent than I;
And I have lived to be a fool at last 235

To my own family. An evil man
That was, and made an evil choice, if he
Were false to us; and if he were not false,
There are ten thousand to whom loss like
this

Had been no sorrow. I forgive him—but
'T were better to be dumb, than to talk
thus. 241

When I began, my purpose was to speak
Of remedies and of a cheerful hope.

Our Luke shall leave us, Isabel; the land
Shall not go from us, and it shall be free;
He shall possess it free as is the wind 246

That passes over it. We have, thou
know'st,

Another kinsman—he will be our friend
In this distress. He is a prosperous man,
Thriving in trade—and Luke to him shall
go, 250

And with his kinsman's help and his own
thrift

He quickly will repair this loss, and then
He may return to us. If here he stay,
What can be done? Where every one is
poor,

What can be gained?" 255

At this the old man paused,
And Isabel sat silent, for her mind

Was busy, looking back into past times.
There's Richard Bateman, thought she to
herself,

He was a parish-boy—at the church-door

They made a gathering for him, shillings,
pence, ²⁶⁰
And halfpennies, wherewith the neighbors
bought
A basket, which they filled with pedlar's
wares;
And with this basket on his arm, the lad
Went up to London, found a master there,
Who out of many chose the trusty boy ²⁶⁵
To go and overlook his merchandise
Beyond the seas: where he grew wondrous
rich,
And left estates and monies to the poor,
And at his birthplace built a chapel floored
With marble which he sent from foreign
lands. ²⁷⁰
These thoughts, and many others of like
sort,
Passed quickly through the mind of Isabel,
And her face brightened. The old man
was glad,
And thus resumed:—"Well, Isabel! this
scheme
These two days has been meat and drink
to me. ²⁷⁵
Far more than we have lost is left us yet.
We have enough—I wish indeed that I
Were younger,—but this hope is a good
hope.
Make ready Luke's best garments, of the
best
Buy for him more, and let us send him
forth ²⁸⁰
To-morrow, or the next day, or to-night:
If he *could* go, the boy should go to-night."
Here Michael ceased, and to the fields
went forth
With a light heart. The housewife for
five days
Was restless morn and night, and all day
long ²⁸⁵
Wrought on with her best fingers to pre-
pare
Things needful for the journey of her
son.
But Isabel was glad when Sunday came
To stop her in her work: for, when she
lay
By Michael's side, she through the last two
nights ²⁹⁰
Heard him, how he was troubled in his
sleep:
And when they rose at morning she could
see

That all his hopes were gone. That day
at noon
She said to Luke, while they two by them-
selves
Were sitting at the door, "Thou must not
go: ²⁹⁵
We have no other child but thee to lose,
None to remember—do not go away,
For if thou leave thy father he will die."
The youth made answer with a jocund
voice;
And Isabel, when she had told her
fears, ³⁰⁰
Recovered heart. That evening her best
fare
Did she bring forth, and all together sat
Like happy people round a Christmas fire.
With daylight Isabel resumed her work;
And all the ensuing week the house ap-
peared ³⁰⁵
As cheerful as a grove in spring: at length
The expected letter from their kinsman
came,
With kind assurances that he would do
His utmost for the welfare of the boy:
To which, requests were added, that forth-
with ³¹⁰
He might be sent to him. Ten times or
more
The letter was read over; Isabel
Went forth to show it to the neighbors
round;
Nor was there at that time on English land
A prouder heart than Luke's. When
Isabel ³¹⁵
Had to her house returned, the old man
said,
"He shall depart to-morrow." To this
word
The housewife answered, talking much of
things
Which, if at such short notice he should go,
Would surely be forgotten. But at length
She gave consent, and Michael was at
ease. ³²⁰
Near the tumultuous brook of Green-
head Ghyll,
In that deep valley, Michael had designed
To build a sheepfold; and, before he heard
The tidings of his melancholy loss, ³²⁵
For this same purpose he had gathered up
A heap of stones, which by the streamlet's
edge
Lay thrown together, ready for the work.

With Luke that evening thitherward he
walked;
And soon as they had reached the place he
stopped, 330
And thus the old man spake to him:—
“My son,
To-morrow thou wilt leave me: with full
heart
I look upon thee, for thou art the same
That wert a promise to me ere thy birth,
And all thy life hast been my daily joy. 335
I will relate to thee some little part
Of our two histories; ’t will do thee good
When thou art from me, even if I should
touch
On things thou canst not know of.—After
thou
First cam’st into the world—as oft befalls
To new-born infants—thou didst sleep
away 341
Two days, and blessings from thy father’s
tongue
Then fell upon thee. Day by day passed
on,
And still I loved thee with increasing love.
Never to living ear came sweeter sounds
Than when I heard thee by our own fire-
side 346
First uttering, without words, a natural
tune;
While thou, a feeding babe, didst in thy
joy
Sing at thy mother’s breast. Month fol-
lowed month,
And in the open fields my life was passed
And on the mountains; else I think that
thou 351
Hadst been brought up upon thy father’s
knees.
But we were playmates, Luke: among
these hills,
As well thou knowest, in us the old and
young
Have played together, nor with me didst
thou 355
Lack any pleasure which a boy can know.”
Luke had a manly heart; but at these
words
He sobbed aloud. The old man grasped
his hand
And said, “Nay, do not take it so—I see
That these are things of which I need not
speak. 360
Even to the utmost I have been to thee

A kind and a good father: and herein
I but repay a gift which I myself
Received at others’ hands; for, though now
old
Beyond the common life of man, I still 365
Remember them who loved me in my
youth.
Both of them sleep together: here they
lived,
As all their forefathers had done; and
when
At length their time was come, they were
not loath
To give their bodies to the family mould. 370
I wished that thou should’st live the life
they lived.
But ’t is a long time to look back, my son,
And see so little gain from threescore
years.
These fields were burdened when they
came to me;
Till I was forty years of age, not more 375
Than half of my inheritance was mine.
I toiled and toiled; God blessed me in my
work,
And till these three weeks past the land
was free.
It looks as if it never could endure
Another master. Heaven forgive me,
Luke, 380
If I judge ill for thee, but it seems good
That thou should’st go.”
At this the old man paused;
Then, pointing to the stones near which
they stood,
Thus, after a short silence, he resumed:
“This was a work for us; and now, my
son, 385
It is a work for me. But lay one stone—
Here, lay it for me, Luke, with thine own
hands.
Nay, boy, be of good hope;—we both may
live
To see a better day. At eighty-four
I still am strong and hale;—do thou thy
part, 390
I will do mine.—I will begin again
With many tasks that were resigned to
thee;
Up to the heights, and in among the
storms,
Will I without thee go again, and do
All works which I was wont to do
alone, 395

Before I knew thy face.—Heaven bless thee, boy!
 Thy heart these two weeks has been beating fast'
 With many hopes; it should be so—yes—yes—
 I knew that thou could'st never have a wish
 To leave me, Luke: thou hast been bound to me 400
 Only by links of love: when thou art gone,
 What will be left to us!—But I forget My purposes. Lay now the corner-stone, As I requested; and hereafter, Luke, When thou art gone away, should evil men 405
 Be thy companions, think of me, my son, And of this moment; hither turn thy thoughts,
 And God will strengthen thee: amid all fear
 And all temptation, Luke, I pray that thou May'st bear in mind the life thy fathers lived, 410
 Who, being innocent, did for that cause Bestir them in good deeds. Now, fare thee well—
 When thou return'st, thou in this place wilt see
 A work which is not here: a covenant 'T will be between us; but, whatever fate Befall thee, I shall love thee to the last, 416
 And bear thy memory with me to the grave."
 The Shepherd ended here; and Luke stooped down,
 And, as his father had requested, laid The first stone of the sheepfold. At the sight 420
 The old man's grief broke from him; to his heart
 He pressed his son, he kissèd him and wept;
 And to the house together they returned. Hushed was that house in peace, or seeming peace,
 Ere the night fell;—with morrow's dawn the boy 425
 Began his journey, and when he had reached
 The public way, he put on a bold face; And all the neighbors, as he passed their doors,

Came forth with wishes and with farewell prayers,
 That followed him till he was out of sight. 430
 A good report did from their kinsman come,
 Of Luke and his well doing: and the boy Wrote loving letters, full of wondrous news,
 Which, as the housewife phrased it, were throughout
 "The prettiest letters that were ever seen." Both parents read them with rejoicing hearts. 436
 So, many months passed on: and once again
 The Shepherd went about his daily work With confident and cheerful thoughts; and now
 Sometimes when he could find a leisure hour 440
 He to that valley took his way, and there Wrought at the sheepfold. Meantime Luke began
 To slacken in his duty; and at length He in the dissolute city gave himself
 To evil courses: ignominy and shame 445
 Fell on him, so that he was driven at last To seek a hiding-place beyond the seas.
 There is a comfort in the strength of love;
 'T will make a thing endurable, which else Would upset the brain, or break the heart: 450
 I have conversed with more than one who well
 Remember the old man, and what he was Years after he had heard this heavy news. His bodily frame had been from youth to age 454
 Of an unusual strength. Among the rocks He went, and still looked up to sun and cloud
 And listened to the wind; and as before Performed all kinds of labor for his sheep, And for the land his small inheritance.
 And to that hollow dell from time to time Did he repair, to build the fold of which 461
 His flock had need. 'T is not forgotten yet The pity which was then in every heart
 For the old man—and 't is believed by all That many and many a day he thither went, 465
 And never lifted up a single stone.

There, by the sheepfold, sometimes was
 he seen
 Sitting alone, or with his faithful dog,
 Then old, beside him, lying at his feet.
 The length of full seven years, from time
 to time, 470
 He at the building of this sheepfold
 wrought,
 And left the work unfinished when he died.
 Three years, or little more, did Isabel
 Survive her husband: at her death the
 estate
 Was sold, and went into a stranger's hand.
 The cottage which was named The Evening
 Star 476
 Is gone—the ploughshare has been through
 the ground
 On which it stood; great changes have been
 wrought
 In all the neighborhood:—yet the oak is
 left
 That grew beside their door; and the re-
 mains 480
 Of the unfinished sheepfold may be seen
 Beside the boisterous brook of Greenhead
 Ghyll.

MY HEART LEAPS UP WHEN I BEHOLD

My heart leaps up when I behold
 A rainbow in the sky:
 So was it when my life began;
 So is it now I am a man;
 So be it when I shall grow old, 5
 Or let me die!
 The child is father of the man;
 And I could wish my days to be
 Bound each to each by natural piety.

RESOLUTION AND INDEPEND- ENCE

There was a roaring in the wind all night;
 The rain came heavily and fell in floods;
 But now the sun is rising calm and bright;
 The birds are singing in the distant
 woods:
 Over his own sweet voice the stock-dove 5
 broods;

The jay makes answer as the magpie
 chatters;
 And all the air is filled with pleasant noise
 of waters.

All things that love the sun are out of
 doors;
 The sky rejoices in the morning's birth;
 The grass is bright with rain-drops;—on
 the moors 10
 The hare is running races in her mirth;
 And with her feet she from the plashy
 earth
 Raises a mist, that, glittering in the sun,
 Runs with her all the way wherever she
 doth run.

I was a traveller then upon the moor; 15
 I saw the hare that raced about with
 joy;
 I heard the woods and distant waters
 roar,
 Or heard them not, as happy as a boy:
 The pleasant season did my heart employ:
 My old remembrances went from me
 wholly; 20
 And all the ways of men so vain and mel-
 ancholy.

But, as it sometimes chanceth, from the
 might
 Of joy in minds that can no further go,
 As high as we have mounted in delight
 In our dejection do we sink as low, 25
 To me that morning did it happen so;
 And fears, and fancies, thick upon me
 came;
 Dim sadness—and blind thoughts, I knew
 not, nor could name.

I heard the sky-lark warbling in the sky;
 And I bethought me of the playful hare: 30
 Even such a happy child of earth am I;
 Even as these blissful creatures do I
 fare;
 Far from the world I walk, and from all
 care;
 But there may come another day to me—
 Solitude, pain of heart, distress, and
 poverty. 35

My whole life I have lived in pleasant
 thought,
 As if life's business were a summer mood;

As if all needful things would come unsought

To genial faith, still rich in genial good;
But how can he expect that others should
Build for him, sow for him, and at his
call 41

Love him, who for himself will take no
heed at all?

I thought of Chatterton, the marvelous
boy,

The sleepless soul that perished in his
pride;

Of him who walked in glory and in joy 45
Following his plough, along the mountain-
side:

By our own spirits are we deified:
We poets in our youth begin in glad-
ness;

But thereof come in the end despondency
and madness.

Now, whether it were by peculiar grace, 50
A leading from above, a something given,
Yet it befell, that, in this lonely place,
When I with these untoward thoughts
had striven,

Beside a pool bare to the eye of heaven
I saw a man before me unawares: 55
The oldest man he seemed that ever wore
gray hairs.

As a huge stone is sometimes seen to lie
Couched on the bald top of an eminence;
Wonder to all who do the same espy,
By what means it could thither come, and
whence; 60

So that it seems a thing endued with
sense:

Like a sea-beast crawled forth, that on a
shelf

Of rock or sand reposeth, there to sun it-
self;

Such seemed this man, not all alive nor
dead,

Nor all asleep—in his extreme old age: 65

His body was bent double, feet and head
Coming together in life's pilgrimage;

As if some dire constraint of pain, or
rage

Of sickness felt by him in times long past,
A more than human weight upon his
frame had cast. 70

Himself he propped, limbs, body, and pale
face,

Upon a long gray staff of shaven wood:
And, still as I drew near with gentle
pace,

Upon the margin of that moorish flood
Motionless as a cloud the old man stood;
That heareth not the loud winds when
they call, 76

And moveth altogether, if it move at all.

At length, himself unsettling, he the pond
Stirred with his staff and fixedly did look
Upon the muddy water, which he conned,
As if he had been reading in a book: 81
And now a stranger's privilege I took;
And, drawing to his side, to him did say
"This morning gives us promise of a
glorious day."

A gentle answer did the old man make, 85
In courteous speech which forth he
slowly drew:

And him with further words I thus be-
spoke,

"What occupation do you there pursue?
This is a lonesome place for one like
you."

Ere he replied, a flash of mild surprise
Broke from the sable orbs of his yet vivid
eyes. 91

His words came feebly, from a feeble
chest,

But each in solemn order followed each,
With something of a lofty utterance
dressed;

Choice word, and measured phrase, above
the reach 95

Of ordinary men; a stately speech;
Such as grave Livers do in Scotland use,
Religious men, who give to God and man
their dues.

He told, that to these waters he had come
To gather leeches, being old and poor: 100
Employment hazardous and wearisome!
And he had many hardships to endure:
From pond to pond he roamed, from moor
to moor;

Housing, with God's good help, by choice
or chance;

And in this way he gained an honest main-
tenance. 105

The old man still stood talking by my side;

But now his voice to me was like a stream
Scarce heard; nor word from word could
I divide;

And the whole body of the man did seem
Like one whom I had met with in a dream;
Or like a man from some far region sent,
To give me human strength, by apt ad-
monishment. 112

My former thoughts returned: the fear
that kills;
And hope that is unwilling to be fed;
Cold, pain and labor, and all fleshly ills;
And mighty poets in their misery dead.
Perplexed, and longing to be comforted,
My question eagerly did I renew, 118
"How is it that you live, and what is it
you do?"

He with a smile did then his words repeat;
And said, that, gathering leeches, far and
wide 121

He travelled; stirring thus about his feet
The waters of the pools where they abide.
"Once I could meet with them on every
side;

But they have dwindled long by slow
decay; 125
Yet still I persevere, and find them where
I may."

While he was talking thus, the lonely
place,
The old man's shape, and speech, all
troubled me:

In my mind's eye I seemed to see him
pace

About the weary moors continually, 130
Wandering about alone and silently.

While I these thoughts within myself
pursued,

He, having made a pause, the same dis-
course renewed.

And soon with this he other matter
blended,

Cheerfully uttered, with demeanor kind,
But stately in the main; and when he
ended, 136

I could have laughed myself to scorn to
find

In that decrepit man so firm a mind.

"God," said I, "be my help and stay
secure;

I'll think of the leech-gatherer on the
lonely moor!" 140

YEW-TREES

There is a Yew-tree, pride of Lorton
Vale,

Which to this day stands single, in the
midst

Of its own darkness, as it stood of yore;
Not loth to furnish weapons for the bands
Of Umfraville or Percy ere they marched 5
To Scotland's heaths; or those that
crossed the sea

And drew their sounding bows at Azin-
cour,

Perhaps at earlier Crecy, or Poitiers.
Of vast circumference and gloom profound
This solitary Tree! a living thing 10

Produced too slowly ever to decay;
Of form and aspect too magnificent
To be destroyed. But worthier still
of note

Are those fraternal Four of Borrowdale,
Joined in one solemn and capacious
grove; 15

Huge trunks! and each particular trunk
a growth

Of intertwined fibres serpentine
Up-coiling, and inveterately convolved;
Nor uninformed with Phantasy, and looks
That threaten the profane;—a pillared
shade, 20

Upon whose grassless floor of red-brown
hue,

By sheddings from the pining umbrage
tinged

Perennially—beneath whose sable roof
Of boughs, as if for festal purpose, decked
With unrejoicing berries—ghostly Shapes
May meet at noontide; Fear and trembling
Hope, 26

Silence and Foresight; Death the Skeleton
And Time the Shadow;—there to cele-
brate,

As in a natural temple scattered o'er
With altars undisturbed of mossy stone, 30
United worship; or in mute repose

To lie, and listen to the mountain flood
Murmuring from Glaramara's inmost
caves.

AT THE GRAVE OF BURNS

SEVEN YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

I shiver, Spirit fierce and bold,
 At thought of what I now behold:
 As vapors breathed from dungeons cold
 Strike pleasure dead,
 So sadness comes from out the mould 5
 Where Burns is laid.

And have I then thy bones so near,
 And thou forbidden to appear?
 As if it were thyself that's here
 I shrink with pain; 10
 And both my wishes and my fear
 Alike are vain.

Off weight—nor press on weight!—away
 Dark thoughts!—they came, but not to
 stay;
 With chastened feelings would I pay 15
 The tribute due
 To him, and aught that hides his clay
 From mortal view.

Fresh as the flower, whose modest worth
 He sang, his genius "glinted" forth, 20
 Rose like a star that touching earth,
 For so it seems,
 Doth glorify its humble birth
 With matchless beams.

The piercing eye, the thoughtful brow, 25
 The struggling heart, where be they
 now?—
 Full soon the Aspirant of the plough,
 The prompt, the brave,
 Slept, with the obscurest, in the low
 And silent grave. 30

I mourned with thousands, but as one
 More deeply grieved, for He was gone
 Whose light I hailed when first it shone,
 And showed my youth
 How verse may build a princely throne 35
 On humble truth.

Alas! where'er the current tends,
 Regret pursues and with it blends,—
 Huge Criffel's hoary top ascends
 By Skiddaw seen,— 40
 Neighbors we were, and loving friends
 We might have been;

True friends though diversely inclined;
 But heart with heart and mind with mind,
 Where the main fibres are entwined, 45
 Through Nature's skill,
 May even by contraries be joined
 More closely still.

The tear will start, and let it flow;
 Thou "poor Inhabitant below," 50
 At this dread moment—even so—
 Might we together
 Have sat and talked where gowans blow,
 Or on wild heather.

What treasures would have then been
 placed 55
 Within my reach; of knowledge graced
 By fancy what a rich repast!
 But why go on?—
 Oh! spare to sweep, thou mournful blast,
 His grave grass-grown. 60

There, too, a son, his joy and pride,
 (Not three weeks past the stripling died,)
 Lies gathered to his father's side,
 Soul-moving sight!
 Yet one to which is not denied 65
 Some sad delight:

For he is safe, a quiet bed
 Hath early found among the dead,
 Harbored where none can be misled,
 Wronged, or distressed; 70
 And surely here it may be said
 That such are blest.

And oh! for thee, by pitying grace
 Checked oft-times in a devious race,
 May He who halloweth the place 75
 Where man is laid
 Receive thy spirit in the embrace
 For which it prayed!

Sighing I turned away; but ere
 Night fell I heard, or seemed to hear, 80
 Music that sorrow comes not near,
 A ritual hymn,
 Chaunted in love that casts out fear
 By Seraphim.

THE SOLITARY REAPER

Behold her, single in the field,
 Yon solitary Highland Lass!
 Reaping and singing by herself;
 Stop here, or gently pass!

Alone she cuts and binds the grain 5
And sings a melancholy strain;
Oh listen! for the vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands 10
Of travellers in some shady haunt,
Among Arabian sands:
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the cuckoo-bird
Breaking the silence of the seas 15
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?—
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago: 20
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the maiden sang 25
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;—
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill, 30
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

TO THE CUCKOO

O blithe New-comer! I have heard,
I hear thee and rejoice.
O Cuckoo! shall I call thee Bird,
Or but a wandering Voice?

While I am lying on the grass 5
Thy twofold shout I hear,
From hill to hill it seems to pass,
At once far off, and near.

Though babbling only to the vale,
Of sunshine and of flowers, 10
Thou bringest unto me a tale
Of visionary hours.

Thrice welcome, darling of the spring!
Even yet thou art to me
No bird, but an invisible thing, 15
A voice, a mystery;

The same whom in my school-boy days
I listened to; that Cry
Which made me look a thousand ways
In bush, and tree, and sky. 20

To seek thee did I often rove
Through woods and on the green;
And thou wert still a hope, a love;
Still longed for, never seen.

And I can listen to thee yet; 25
Can lie upon the plain
And listen, till I do beget
That golden time again.

O blessèd Bird! the earth we pace
Again appears to be 30
An unsubstantial faery place,
That is fit home for thee!

SHE WAS A PHANTOM OF DELIGHT

She was a phantom of delight
When first she gleamed upon my sight;
A lovely apparition, sent
To be a moment's ornament;
Her eyes as stars of twilight fair; 5
Like twilight's, too, her dusky hair;
But all things else about her drawn
From May-time and the cheerful dawn;
A dancing shape, an image gay,
To haunt, to startle, and way-lay. 10

I saw her upon nearer view,
A spirit, yet a woman too!
Her household motions light and free,
And steps of virgin-liberty;
A countenance in which did meet 15
Sweet records, promises as sweet;
A creature not too bright or good
For human nature's daily food;
For transient sorrows, simple wiles,
Praise, blame, love, kisses, tears, and 20
smiles.

And now I see with eye serene
The very pulse of the machine;
A being breathing thoughtful breath,
A traveller between life and death;
The reason firm, the temperate will, 25
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill;
A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort, and command;
And yet a spirit still, and bright
With something of angelic light. 30

I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, 5
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay: 10
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay 15
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood, 20
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

ODE TO DUTY

Stern Daughter of the Voice of God!
O Duty! if that name thou love
Who art a light to guide, a rod
To check the erring, and reprove;
Thou, who art victory and law 5
When empty terrors overawe;
From vain temptations dost set free;
And calm'st the weary strife of frail hu-
manity!

There are who ask not if thine eye
Be on them; who, in love and truth, 10
Where no misgiving is, rely
Upon the genial sense of youth:
Glad Hearts! without reproach or blot
Who do thy work, and know it not:
Oh! if through confidence misplaced 15
They fail, thy saving arms, dread Power!
around them cast.

Serene will be our days and bright,
And happy will our nature be,
When love is an unerring light,
And joy its own security. 20

And they a blissful course may hold
Even now, who, not unwisely bold,
Live in the spirit of this creed;
Yet seek thy firm support, according to
their need.

I, loving freedom, and untried; 25
No sport of every random gust,
Yet being to myself a guide,
Too blindly have reposed my trust:
And oft, when in my heart was heard
Thy timely mandate, I deferred 30
The task, in smoother walks to stray;
But thee I now would serve more strictly,
if I may.

Through no disturbance of my soul,
Or strong compunction in me wrought,
I supplicate for thy control; 35
But in the quietness of thought:
Me this unchartered freedom tires;
I feel the weight of chance-desires:
My hopes no more must change their
name;
I long for a repose that ever is the same. 40

Stern Lawgiver! yet thou dost wear
The Godhead's most benignant grace;
Nor know we anything so fair
As is the smile upon thy face:
Flowers laugh before thee on their beds 45
And fragrance in thy footing treads;
Thou dost preserve the stars from wrong;
And the most ancient heavens, through
thee, are fresh and strong.

To humbler functions, awful Power!
I call thee: I myself commend 50
Unto thy guidance from this hour;
Oh, let my weakness have an end!
Give unto me, made lowly wise,
The spirit of self-sacrifice;
The confidence of reason give; 55
And in the light of truth thy bondman let
me live!

CHARACTER OF THE HAPPY
WARRIOR

Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he
That every man in arms should wish to be?
It is the generous Spirit, who, when
brought
Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought
Upon the plan that pleased his boyish
thought: 5

Whose high endeavors are an inward light
That makes the path before him always
bright:

Who, with a natural instinct to discern
What knowledge can perform, is diligent
to learn;

Abides by this resolve, and stops not
there, 10

But makes his moral being his prime care;
Who, doomed to go in company with
Pain,

And Fear, and Bloodshed, miserable
train!

Turns his necessity to glorious gain;
In face of these doth exercise a power 15
Which is our human nature's highest
dower;

Controls them and subdues, transmutes,
bereaves,

Of their bad influence, and their good re-
ceives;

By objects, which might force the soul to
abate

Her feeling, rendered more compassionate;
Is placable—because occasions rise 21

So often that demand such sacrifice;
More skilful in self-knowledge, even more
pure,

As tempted more; more able to endure,
As more exposed to suffering and dis-
tress; 25

Thence, also more alive to tenderness.

'Tis he whose law is reason; who depends
Upon that law as on the best of friends;
Whence, in a state where men are tempted
still

To evil for a guard against worse ill, 30
And what in quality or act is best

Doth seldom on a right foundation rest,
He labors good on good to fix, and owes
To virtue every triumph that he knows;

Who, if he rise to station of command, 35
Rises by open means; and there will stand

On honorable terms, or else retire,
And in himself possess his own desire;

Who comprehends his trust, and to the
same

Keeps faithful with a singleness of aim; 40
And therefore does not stoop, nor lie in

wait

For wealth or honors, or for worldly state;
Whom they must follow; on whose head

must fall,
Like showers of manna, if they come at all:

Whose powers shed round him in the com-
mon strife, 45

Or mild concerns of ordinary life,
A constant influence, a peculiar grace;
But who, if he be called upon to face
Some awful moment to which Heaven has
joined

Great issues, good or bad for human kind,
Is happy as a lover; and attired 51

With sudden brightness, like a man in-
spired;

And, through the heat of conflict keeps the
law

In calmness made, and sees what he fore-
saw;

Or if an unexpected call succeed, 55
Come when it will, is equal to the need:

He who though thus endued as with a sense
And faculty for storm and turbulence,

Is yet a soul whose master-bias leans
To homefelt pleasures and to gentle
scenes; 60

Sweet images! which, wheresoe'er he be,
Are at his heart; and such fidelity

It is his darling passion to approve;
More brave for this that he hath much to
love:—

'Tis, finally, the man, who, lifted high 65
Conspicuous object in a nation's eye,

Or left unthought-of in obscurity,—
Who, with a toward or untoward lot,

Prosperous or adverse, to his wish or not,
Plays, in the many games of life, that one

Where what he most doth value must be
won: 71

Whom neither shape of danger can dismay,
Nor thought of tender happiness betray;

Who, not content that former worth stand
fast,

Looks forward, persevering to the last, 75
From well to better, daily self-surpassed:

Who, whether praise of him must walk the
earth

For ever, and to noble deeds give birth,
Or he must fall to sleep without his fame,

And leave a dead unprofitable name, 80
Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;

And, while the mortal mist is gathering,
draws

His breath in confidence of Heaven's ap-
plause:

This is the happy Warrior; this is he
Whom every man in arms should wish to
be. 85

ODE

INTIMATIONS OF IMMORTALITY
FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

"The child is father of the man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety."

I

There was a time when meadow, grove
and stream,
The earth, and every common sight,
To me did seem
Apparelled in celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream. 5
It is not now as it hath been of yore;—
Turn wheresoe'er I may,
By night or day,
The things which I have seen I now can
see no more.

II

The Rainbow comes and goes, 10
And lovely is the Rose;
The Moon doth with delight
Look round her when the heavens are
bare;
Waters on a starry night
Are beautiful and fair; 15
The sunshine is a glorious birth;
But yet I know, where'er I go,
That there hath passed away a glory from
the earth.

III

Now, while the birds thus sing a joyous
song,
And while the young lambs bound 20
As to the tabor's sound,
To me alone there came a thought of
grief;
A timely utterance gave that thought re-
lief,
And I again am strong:
The cataracts blow their trumpets from
the steep; 25
No more shall grief of mine the season
wrong;
I hear the echoes through the mountains
throng,

The winds come to me from the fields of
sleep,
And all the earth is gay;
Land and sea 30
Give themselves up to jollity,
And with the heart of May
Doth every beast keep holiday;—
Thou child of joy,
Shout round me, let me hear thy shouts,
thou happy shepherd-boy! 35

IV

Ye blessèd creatures, I have heard the call
Ye to each other make; I see
The heavens laugh with you in your jubi-
lee:
My heart is at your festival,
My head hath its coronal, 40
The fullness of your bliss, I feel—I feel it
all.
Oh evil day! if I were sullen
While Earth herself is adorning,
This sweet May-morning,
And the children are culling 45
On every side,
In a thousand valleys far and wide,
Fresh flowers; while the sun shines
warm,
And the babe leaps up on his mother's
arm:—
I hear, I hear, with joy I hear! 50
—But there's a tree, of many, one,
A single field which I have looked upon,
Both of them speak of something that is
gone:
The pansy at my feet
Doth the same tale repeat: 55
Whither is fled the visionary gleam?
Where is it now, the glory and the dream?

V

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting, 60
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home: 65
Heaven lies about us in our infancy!
Shades of the prison-house begin to close
Upon the growing boy,

But he beholds the light, and whence it
flows,

He sees it in his joy; 70
The youth, who daily farther from the
east

Must travel, still is Nature's priest.
And by the vision splendid
Is on his way attended;
At length the man perceives it die away, 75
And fade into the light of common day.

VI

Earth fills her lap with pleasures of her
own;

Yearnings she hath in her own natural
kind,

And, even with something of a mother's
mind,

And no unworthy aim, 80
The homely nurse doth all she can

To make her foster-child, her inmate Man,
Forget the glories he hath known,

And that imperial palace whence he
came.

VII

Behold the Child among his new-born
blisses, 85

A six years' darling of a pigmy size!
See, where 'mid work of his own hand he
lies,

Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,
With light upon him from his father's
eyes!

See, at his feet, some little plan or chart, 90
Some fragment from his dream of human
life,

Shaped by himself with newly-learnèd art;
A wedding or a festival,

A mourning or a funeral;
And this hath now his heart, 95

And unto this he frames his song:
Then will he fit his tongue

To dialogues of business, love, or strife;
But it will not be long

Ere this be thrown aside, 100
And with new joy and pride

The little actor cons another part;
Filling from time to time his "humorous
stage"

With all the persons, down to palsied Age,
That Life brings with her in her equipage;

As if his whole vocation 106
Were endless imitation.

VIII

Thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie
Thy soul's immensity;

Thou best philosopher, who yet dost
keep 110

Thy heritage, thou eye among the blind,
That, deaf and silent, read'st the eternal
deep,

Haunted forever by the eternal mind,—
Mighty prophet! Seer blest!

On whom those truths do rest, 115
Which we are toiling all our lives to find,
In darkness lost, the darkness of the
grave;

Thou, over whom thy immortality
Broods like the day, a master o'er a slave,
A presence which is not to be put by; 120

Thou little child, yet glorious in the might
Of heaven-born freedom on thy being's
height,

Why with such earnest pains dost thou
provoke

The years to bring the inevitable yoke,
Thus blindly with thy blessedness at
strife? 125

Full soon thy Soul shall have her earthly
freight,

And custom lie upon thee with a weight,
Heavy as frost, and deep almost as life!

IX

O joy! that in our embers
Is something that doth live, 130
That nature yet remembers

What was so fugitive!
The thought of our past years in me doth
breed

Perpetual benediction: not indeed
For that which is most worthy to be
blest— 135

Delight and liberty, the simple creed
Of childhood, whether busy or at rest,
With new-fledged hope still fluttering in his
breast:—

Not for these I raise
The song of thanks and praise; 140

But for those obstinate questionings
Of sense and outward things,
Fallings from us, vanishings;

Blank misgivings of a creature
Moving about in worlds not realised, 145

High instincts before which our mortal
nature

Did tremble like a guilty thing surprised:
 But for those first affections,
 Those shadowy recollections,
 Which, be they what they may, 150
 Are yet the fountain light of all our day,
 Are yet a master light of all our seeing;
 Uphold us, cherish, and have power to
 make
 Our noisy years seem moments in the being
 Of the eternal Silence: truths that wake,
 To perish never; 156
 Which neither listlessness, nor mad en-
 deavor,
 Nor man nor boy,
 Nor all that is at enmity with joy,
 Can utterly abolish or destroy! 160
 Hence in a season of calm weather
 Though inland far we be,
 Our souls have sight of that immortal sea
 Which brought us hither,
 Can in a moment travel thither, 165
 And see the children sport upon the shore,
 And hear the mighty waters rolling ever-
 more.

X

Then sing, ye birds, sing, sing a joyous
 song!
 And let the young lambs bound
 As to the tabor's sound! 170
 We in thought will join your throng,
 Ye that pipe and ye that play,
 Ye that through your hearts to-day
 Feel the gladness of the May!
 What though the radiance which was once
 so bright 175
 Be now forever taken from my sight,
 Though nothing can bring back the
 hour
 Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the
 flower;
 We will grieve not, rather find
 Strength in what remains behind; 180
 In the primal sympathy
 Which having been must ever be;
 In the soothing thoughts that spring
 Out of human suffering; 184
 In the faith that looks through death,
 In years that bring the philosophic mind.

XI

And O ye fountains, meadows, hills, and
 groves,
 Forebode not any severing of our loves!

Yet in my heart of hearts I feel your might;
 I only have relinquished one delight 190
 To live beneath your more habitual sway.
 I love the brooks which down their chan-
 nels fret,
 Even more than when I tripped lightly as
 they;
 The innocent brightness of a new-born day
 Is lovely yet; 195
 The clouds that gather round the setting
 sun
 Do take a sober coloring from an eye
 That hath kept watch o'er man's mor-
 tality;
 Another race hath been, and other palms
 are won.
 Thanks to the human heart by which we
 live, 200
 Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,
 To me the meanest flower that blows can
 give
 Thoughts that do often lie too deep for
 tears.

TO A SKY-LARK

Ethereal minstrel! pilgrim of the sky!
 Dost thou despise the earth where cares
 abound?
 Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and
 eye
 Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground?
 Thy nest which thou canst drop into at
 will, 5
 Those quivering wings composed, that
 music still!
 Leave to the nightingale her shady wood;
 A privacy of glorious light is thine;
 Whence thou dost pour upon the world a
 flood
 Of harmony, with instinct more divine; 10
 Type of the wise who soar, but never roam;
 True to the kindred points of Heaven and
 Home!

SONNETS

ON THE EXTINCTION OF THE
VENETIAN REPUBLIC

Once did she hold the gorgeous east in fee;
 And was the safeguard of the west: the
 worth
 Of Venice did not fall below her birth,

Venice, the eldest child of Liberty.
 She was a maiden city, bright and free; 5
 No guile seduced, no force could violate;
 And, when she took unto herself a mate,
 She must espouse the everlasting sea.
 And what if she had seen those glories
 fade,
 Those titles vanish, and that strength de-
 cay; 10
 Yet shall some tribute of regret be paid
 When her long life hath reached its final
 day:
 Men are we, and must grieve when even
 the shade
 Of that which once was great is passed
 away.

LONDON, 1802

Milton! thou should'st be living at this
 hour:
 England hath need of thee: she is a fen
 Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,
 Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and
 bower,
 Have forfeited their ancient English
 dower 5
 Of inward happiness. We are selfish men;
 Oh! raise us up, return to us again;
 And give us manners, virtue, freedom,
 power.
 Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart:
 Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like
 the sea: 10
 Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,
 So didst thou travel on life's common way,
 In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart
 The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

COMPOSED UPON WESTMINSTER BRIDGE, SEPT. 3, 1802

Earth has not anything to show more
 fair:
 Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
 A sight so touching in its majesty:
 This city now doth, like a garment, wear
 The beauty of the morning; silent, bare, 5
 Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and tem-
 ples lie
 Open unto the fields, and to the sky;

All bright and glittering in the smokeless
 air.
 Never did sun more beautifully steep
 In his first splendor, valley, rock, or hill;
 Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep! 11
 The river glideth at his own sweet will:
 Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
 And all that mighty heart is lying still!

ON THE SEA-SHORE NEAR CALAIS

It is a beauteous evening, calm and free,
 The holy time is quiet as a Nun
 Breathless with adoration; the broad sun
 Is sinking down in its tranquillity;
 The gentleness of heaven broods o'er
 the Sea: 5
 Listen! the mighty Being is awake,
 And doth with his eternal motion make
 A sound like thunder—everlastingly.
 Dear Child! dear Girl! that walkest with
 me here,
 If thou appear untouched by solemn
 thought, 10
 Thy nature is not therefore less divine:
 Thou liest in Abraham's bosom all the
 year;
 And worship'st at the temple's inner
 shrine,
 God being with thee when we know it not.

THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

The world is too much with us: late and
 soon,
 Getting and spending, we lay waste our
 powers:
 Little we see in Nature that is ours;
 We have given our hearts away, a sordid
 boon!
 This Sea that bares her bosom to the
 moon; 5
 The winds that will be howling at all
 hours,
 And are up-gathered now like sleeping
 flowers;
 For this, for everything, we are out of
 tune;
 It moves us not.—Great God! I'd rather be
 A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn; 10

So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
 Have glimpses that would make me less
 forlorn;
 Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
 Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

TO TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

Toussaint, the most unhappy man of men!
 Whether the whistling rustic tend his
 plough
 Within thy hearing, or thy head be now
 Pillowed in some deep dungeon's earless
 den;
 O miserable Chieftain! where and when 5
 Wilt thou find patience? Yet die not! do
 thou
 Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful brow:
 Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,
 Live, and take comfort. Thou hast left
 behind
 Powers that will work for thee, air, earth,
 and skies: 10
 There's not a breathing of the common
 wind
 That will forget thee; thou hast great
 allies;
 Thy friends are exultations, agonies,
 And love, and man's unconquerable mind.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE
 (1772-1834)

FRANCE: AN ODE

I

Ye Clouds! that far above me float and
 pause,
 Whose pathless march no mortal may
 control!
 Ye Ocean Waves! that, whereso'er ye
 roll,
 Yield homage only to eternal laws!
 Ye Woods! that listen to the night-bird's
 singing, 5
 Midway the smooth and perilous slope
 reclined,
 Save when your own imperious branches
 swinging,
 Have made a solemn music of the wind!
 Where, like a man beloved of God,
 Through glooms, which never woodman
 trod, 10

How oft, pursuing fancies holy,
 My moonlight way o'er flowering weeds I
 wound,
 Inspired beyond the guess of folly,
 By each rude shape and wild unconquer-
 able sound!
 O ye loud Waves! and O ye Forests high! 15
 And O ye Clouds that far above me
 soared!
 Thou rising Sun! thou blue rejoicing Sky!
 Yea, every thing that is and will be
 free!
 Bear witness for me, wheresoe'er ye be,
 With what deep worship I have still
 adored 20
 The spirit of divinest Liberty.

II

When France in wrath her giant-limbs up-
 reared,
 And with that oath which smote air,
 earth and sea,
 Stamped her strong foot and said she
 would be free,
 Bear witness for me, how I hoped and
 feared! 25
 With what a joy my lofty gratulation
 Unawed I sang, amid a slavish band:
 And when to whelm the disenchanted
 nation,
 Like fiends embattled by a wizard's
 wand,
 The Monarchs marched in evil day, 30
 And Britain joined the dire array;
 Though dear her shores and circling
 ocean,
 Though many friendships, many youthful
 loves
 Had swoln the patriot emotion
 And flung a magic light o'er all her hills
 and groves; 35
 Yet still my voice, unaltered, sang defeat
 To all that braved the tyrant-quelling
 lance,
 And shame too long delayed and vain
 retreat!
 For ne'er, O Liberty! with partial aim
 I dimmed thy light or damped thy holy
 flame; 40
 But blessed the pæans of delivered
 France,
 And hung my head and wept at Britain's
 name.

III

"And what," I said, "though Blasphemy's
loud scream

With that sweet music of deliverance
strove!

Though all the fierce and drunken
passions wove
A dance more wild than e'er was maniac's
dream! 45

Ye storms, that round the dawning
east assembled,
The Sun was rising, though ye hid his
light!"

And when to soothe my soul, that hoped
and trembled,
The dissonance ceased, and all seemed
calm and bright; 50

When France her front deep-scarred
and gory
Concealed with clustering wreaths of
glory;

When, insupportably advancing,
Her arm made mockery of the warrior's
ramp;

While timid looks of fury glancing, 55
Domestic treason, crushed beneath her
fatal stamp,
Writhed like a wounded dragon in his
gore;

Then I reproached my fears that would
not flee;

"And soon," I said, "shall Wisdom teach
her lore
In the low huts of them that toil and
groan; 60

And, conquering by her happiness alone,
Shall France compel the nations to
be free,

Till Love and Joy look round, and call
the earth their own."

IV

Forgive me, Freedom! Oh forgive those
dreams!

I hear thy voice, I hear thy loud lament,
From bleak Helvetia's icy caverns
sent— 66

I hear thy groans upon her blood-stained
streams!

Heroes, that for your peaceful country
perished,

And ye, that fleeing, spot your mountain
snows

With bleeding wounds; forgive me, that
I cherished 70
One thought that ever blessed your cruel
foes!

To scatter rage and traitorous guilt
Where Peace her jealous home had built;
A patriot-race to disinherit
Of all that made their stormy wilds so
dear; 75

And with inexpiable spirit
To taint the bloodless freedom of the
mountaineer—

O France, that mockest Heaven, adul-
terous, blind,
And patriot only in pernicious toils!

Are these thy boasts, Champion of
human kind? 80

To mix with Kings in the low lust of
sway,
Yell in the hunt, and share the murderous
prey;

To insult the shrine of Liberty with spoils
From freemen torn; to tempt and to
betray?

V

The Sensual and the Dark rebel in
vain, 85

Slaves by their own compulsion! In
mad game

They burst their manacles and wear the
name

Of Freedom, graven on a heavier
chain!

O Liberty! with profitless endeavor
Have I pursued thee, many a weary hour;
But thou nor swell'st the victor's
strain, nor ever 91

Didst breathe thy soul in forms of human
power.

Alike from all, howe'er they praise thee,
(Nor prayer, nor boastful name de-
lays thee)

Alike from Priestcraft's harpy minions, 95
And factious Blasphemy's obscener slaves,
Thou speedest on thy subtle pinions,
The guide of homeless winds, and play-
mate of the waves!

And there I felt thee!—on that sea-cliff's
verge,

Whose pines, scarce travelled by the
breeze above, 100
Had made one murmur with the distant
surge!

Yes, while I stood and gazed, my temples
bare,
And shot my being through earth, sea, and
air,
Possessing all things with intensest love,
O Liberty! my spirit felt thee there. 105

KUBLA KHAN: OR, A VISION IN A DREAM

A FRAGMENT

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea. 5

So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round:
And there were gardens bright with
sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing
tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery. 11

But oh! that deep romantic chasm which
slanted
Down the green hill athwart a cedarn
cover!

A savage place! as holy and enchanted
As e'er beneath a waning moon was
haunted 15

By woman wailing for her demon-lover!
And from this chasm, with ceaseless
turmoil seething,

As if this earth in fast thick pants were
breathing,

A mighty fountain momentarily was forced:
Amid whose swift half-intermitted burst
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding
hail, 21

Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's
flail:

And 'mid these dancing rocks at once and
ever

It flung up momentarily the sacred river.
Five miles meandering with a mazy mo-
tion 25

Through wood and dale the sacred river
ran,

Then reached the caverns measureless to
man,

And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean:
And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from
far

Ancestral voices prophesying war! 30

The shadow of the dome of pleasure
Floated midway on the waves;
Where was heard the mingled measure
From the fountain and the caves.

It was a miracle of rare device, 35
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of
ice!

A damsel with a dulcimer
In a vision once I saw:
It was an Abyssinian maid,
And on her dulcimer she played, 40
Singing of Mount Abora.
Could I revive within me
Her symphony and song,
To such a deep delight 'twould win
me,

That with music loud and long, 45
I would build that dome in air,
That sunny dome! those caves of ice!
And all who heard should see them there,—
And all should cry, Beware! Beware!—
His flashing eyes, his floating hair! 50
Weave a circle round him thrice,
And close your eyes with holy dread,
For he on honey-dew hath fed,
And drunk the milk of Paradise.

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

IN SEVEN PARTS

PART I

It is an ancient Mariner, An ancient Mar-
iner meeteth three
Gallants bidden to
a wedding-feast,
and detaineth one.
And he stoppeth one of
three.

"By thy long gray beard
and glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp'st
thou me?"

"The Bridegroom's doors
are opened wide, 5
And I am next of kin;
The guests are met, the
feast is set:
May'st hear the merry din."

He holds him with his
skinny hand,
"There was a ship," quoth
he. 10
"Hold off! unhand me,
graybeard loon!"
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

The Wedding-Guest is spell-bound by the eye of the old seafaring man, and constrained to hear his tale.

He holds him with his
glittering eye—
The wedding-guest stood
still,
And listens like a three
years' child: 15
The Mariner hath his will.

The wedding-guest sat on
a stone:
He cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that
ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner. 20

"The ship was cheered,
the harbor cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the kirk, below the
hill,
Below the lighthouse top.

The Mariner tells how the ship sailed southward with a good wind and fair weather till it reached the Line.

"The sun came up upon
the left, 25
Out of the sea came he!
And he shone bright, and
on the right
Went down into the sea.

"Higher and higher every
day,
Till over the mast at
noon—" 30
The wedding-guest here
beat his breast,
For he heard the loud
bassoon.

The Wedding-Guest heareth the bridal music; but the Mariner continueth his tale.

The bride hath paced into
the hall,
Red as a rose is she;
Nodding their heads be-
fore her goes 35
The merry minstrelsy.

The wedding-guest he beat
his breast,
Yet he cannot choose but
hear;
And thus spake on that
ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner:

"And now the storm-blast
came, and he 41
Was tyrannous and strong:
He struck with his o'ertak-
ing wings,
And chased us south along.

The ship driven by a storm toward the south pole.

"With sloping masts and
dipping prow, 45
As who pursued with yell
and blow
Still treads the shadow of
his foe,
And forward bends his head,
The ship drove fast, loud
roared the blast,
And southward aye we
fled. 50

"And now there came both
mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold;
And ice, mast-high, came
floating by,
As green as emerald;

"And through the drifts the
snowy cliffs 55
Did send a dismal sheen:
Nor shapes of men nor
beasts we ken—
The ice was all between.

The land of ice, and of fearful sounds where no living thing was to be seen.

"The ice was here, the ice
was there,
The ice was all around: 60
It cracked and growled,
and roared and howled,
Like noises in a swound!

"At length did cross an
Albatross:
Thorough the fog it came:
As if it had been a Christian
soul, 65
We hailed it in God's
name.

Till a great sea-bird, called the Albatross, came through the snow-fog, and was received with great joy and hospitality.

And lo! the Albatross proveth a bird of good omen, and followeth the ship as it returned northward through fog and floating ice.

The ancient Mariner inhospitably killeth the pious bird of good omen.

His shipmates cry out against the ancient Mariner for killing the bird of good luck.

"It ate the food it ne'er
had eat,
And round and round it
flew.
The ice did split with a
thunder-fit;
The helmsman steered us
through! 70

"And a good south wind
sprung up behind;
The Albatross did follow,
And every day, for food or
play,
Came to the mariners'
hollo!

"In mist or cloud, on mast
or shroud, 75
It perched for vespers nine;
Whiles all the night,
through fog-smoke
white,
Glimmered the white moon-
shine."

"God save thee, ancient
Mariner!
From the fiends, that plague
thee thus!— 80
Why look'st thou so?"—
"With my cross-bow
I shot the Albatross!"

PART II

"The sun now rose upon
the right:
Out of the sea came he,
Still hid in mist, and on the
left 85
Went down into the sea.

"And the good south wind
still blew behind,
But no sweet bird did
follow,
Nor any day, for food or
play,
Came to the mariners'
hollo! 90

"And I had done a hellish
thing,
And it would work 'em
woe;

For all averred, I had
killed the bird
That made the breeze to
blow.
Ah wretch! said they, the
bird to slay 95
That made the breeze to
blow!

"Nor dim nor red, like
God's own head,
The glorious sun uprist:
Then all averred, I had
killed the bird
That brought the fog and
mist. 100
'Twas right, said they, such
birds to slay,
That bring the fog and mist.

"The fair breeze blew, the
white foam flew,
The furrow followed free:
We were the first that ever
burst 105
Into that silent sea.

"Down dropt the breeze,
the sails dropt down,
'Twas sad as sad could be;
And we did speak only to
break
The silence of the sea! 110

"All in a hot and copper
sky,
The bloody sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast
did stand,
No bigger than the moon.

"Day after day, day after
day, 115
We stuck, nor breath nor
motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

"Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did
shrink; 120
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

But when the fog cleared off, they justify the same, and thus make themselves accomplices in the crime.

The fair breeze continues; the ship enters the Pacific Ocean, and sails northward, even till it reaches the Line.

The ship hath been suddenly becalmed.

And the Albatross begins to be avenged.

"The very deep did rot:
O Christ!
That ever this should be!
Yea, slimy things did crawl
with legs 125
Upon the slimy sea.

"About, about, in reel and
rout,
The death-fires danced at
night;
The water, like a witch's
oils,
Burnt green, and blue, and
white. 130

A Spirit had followed them; one of the invisible inhabitants of this planet, neither departed souls nor angels.

"And some in dreams as-
sured were
Of the spirit that plagued
us so:
Nine fathom deep he had
followed us,
From the land of mist and
snow.

"And every tongue, through
utter drought, 135
Was withered at the root;
We could not speak, no
more than if
We had been choked with
soot.

The shipmates, in their sore distress, would fain throw the whole guilt on the ancient Mariner: in sign whereof they hang the dead seabird round his neck.

"Ah! well-a-day! what evil
looks
Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the
Albatross 141
About my neck was hung.

PART III

"There passed a weary
time. Each throat
Was parched, and glazed
each eye.
A weary time! A weary
time! 145
How glazed each weary
eye!
When looking westward I
beheld
A something in the sky.

The ancient Mariner beholdeth a sign in the element afar off.

"At first it seemed a little
speck,
And then it seemed a mist:
It moved and moved, and
took at last 151
A certain shape, I wist.

"A speck, a mist, a shape,
I wist!
And still it neared and
neared:
As if it dodged a water-
sprite, 155
It plunged and tacked and
veered.

"With throats unslaked,
with black lips baked,
We could nor laugh nor
wail;
Through utter drought all
dumb we stood!
I bit my arm, I sucked the
blood, 160
And cried, 'A sail! a sail!'

At its nearer approach, it seemeth him to be a ship; and at a dear ransom he freeth his speech from the bonds of thirst.

"With throats unslaked,
with black lips baked,
Agape they heard me call:
Gramercy! they for joy did
grin,
And all at once their breath
drew in, 165
As they were drinking all.

A flash of joy;

"See! see (I cried) she
tacks no more!
Hither to work us weal;
Without a breeze, without
a tide,
She steadies with upright
keel! 170

And horror follows. For can it be a ship that comes onward without wind or tide?

"The western wave was all
a-flame:
The day was well nigh done:
Almost upon the western
wave
Rested the broad bright
sun;
When that strange shape
drove suddenly 175
Betwixt us and the sun.

It seemeth him
but the skeleton of
a ship.

"And straight the sun was
flecked with bars,
(Heaven's Mother send us
grace!)
As if through a dungeon
grate he peered,
With broad and burning
face. 180

"Alas! (thought I, and my
heart beat loud)
How fast she nears and
nears!
Are those her sails that
glance in the sun,
Like restless gossameres?

And its ribs are
seen as bars on the
face of the setting
sun.

"Are those her ribs through
which the sun 185
Did peer, as through a
grate?
And is that Woman all her
crew?
Is that a Death? and are
there two?
Is Death that woman's
mate?

The Spectre-
Woman and her
Death-mate, and
no other on board
the skeleton-ship.

Like vessel, like
crew!

"Her lips were red, her
looks were free, 190
Her locks were yellow as
gold:
Her skin was as white as
leprosy,
The nightmare Life-in-
Death was she,
Who thickens man's blood
with cold.

Death and Life-in-
Death have dined
for the ship's crew,
and she (the latter)
winneeth the
ancient Mariner.

"The naked hulk alongside
came, 195
And the twain were casting
dice;
'The game is done! I've
won, I've won!'
Quoth she, and whistles
thrice.

No twilight within
the courts of the
sun.

"The sun's rim dips; the
stars rush out:
At one stride comes the
dark; 200
With far-heard whisper,
o'er the sea,
Off shot the spectre-bark.

"We listened and looked
sideways up!

At the rising of the
moon,

Fear at my heart, as at a
cup,
My life-blood seemed to
sip! 205
The stars were dim, and
thick the night,
The steersman's face by his
lamp gleamed white;
From the sails the dew did
drip—
Till clomb above the eastern
bar
The hornèd moon, with one
bright star 210
Within the nether tip.

"One after one, by the star-
dogged moon,
Too quick for groan or
sigh,
Each turned his face with
a ghastly pang,
And cursed me with his
eye. 215

One after another,

"Four times fifty living
men,
(And I heard nor sigh nor
groan)
With heavy thump, a life-
less lump,
They dropped down one
by one.

His shipmates drop
down dead.

"The souls did from their
bodies fly,— 220
They fled to bliss or woe!
And every soul, it passed
me by,
Like the whizz of my cross-
bow!"

But Life-in-Death
begins her work on
the ancient Mar-
iner.

PART IV

"I fear thee, ancient Mar-
iner!
I fear thy skinny hand! 225
And thou art long, and
lank, and brown,
As is the ribbed sea-sand.

The Wedding-
Guest feareth that
a spirit is talking to
him;

"I fear thee and thy glitter-
ing eye,
And thy skinny hand, so
brown."—

But the ancient
Mariner assureth
him of his bodily
life, and proceed-
eth to relate his
horrible penance.

He despiseth the
creatures of the
calm,

And envieth that
they should live,
and so many be
dead.

But the curse liv-
eth for him in the
eye of the dead
men.

"Fear not, fear not, thou
wedding-guest! 230
This body dropt not down.

"Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide, wide sea!
And never a saint took
pity on
My soul in agony. 235

"The many men, so beau-
tiful!
And they all dead did lie:
And a thousand thousand
slimy things
Lived on; and so did I.

"I looked upon the rotting
sea, 240
And drew my eyes away;
I looked upon the rotting
deck,
And there the dead men
lay.

"I looked to heaven, and
tried to pray;
But or ever a prayer had
gusht, 245
A wicked whisper came, and
made
My heart as dry as dust.

"I closed my lids, and kept
them close,
And the balls like pulses
beat;
For the sky and the sea,
and the sea and the
sky, 250
Lay like a load on my weary
eye,
And the dead were at my
feet.

"The cold sweat melted
from their limbs,
Nor rot nor reek did they:
The look with which they
looked on me 255
Had never passed away.

"An orphan's curse would
drag to hell
A spirit from on high;

But oh! more horrible than
that
Is the curse in a dead man's
eye! 260

Seven days, seven nights, I
saw that curse,
And yet I could not die.

"The moving moon went
up the sky,
And nowhere did abide:
Softly she was going up, 265
And a star or two beside—

"Her beams bemoaned the
sultry main,
Like April hoar-frost spread;
But where the ship's huge
shadow lay,
The charmed water burnt
always 270
A still and awful red.

"Beyond the shadow of
the ship,
I watched the water-snakes:
They moved in tracks of
shining white,
And when they reared, the
elfish light 275
Fell off in hoary flakes.

"Within the shadow of
the ship
I watched their rich attire:
Blue, glossy green, and
velvet black,
They coiled and swam;
and every track 280
Was a flash of golden fire.

"O happy living things!
no tongue
Their beauty might declare:
A spring of love gushed
from my heart,
And I blessed them un-
aware! 285
Sure my kind saint took
pity on me,
And I blessed them un-
aware.

"The selfsame moment I
could pray;
And from my neck so free

In his loneliness
and fixedness he
yearneth towards
the journeying
moon, and the stars
that still sojourn,
yet still move on-
ward; and every-
where the blue sky
belongs to them,
and is their ap-
pointed rest, and
their native coun-
try and their own
natural homes,
which they enter
unannounced, as
lords that are cer-
tainly expected;
and yet there is a
silent joy at their
arrival.

By the light of the
moon he beholdeth
God's creatures of
the great calm.

Their beauty and
their happiness.

He blesseth them
in his heart.

The spell begins to
break.

The Albatross fell off, and
sank ²⁹⁰
Like lead into the sea.

PART V

"Oh sleep! it is a gentle
thing,
Beloved from pole to pole!
To Mary Queen the praise
be given!
She sent the gentle sleep
from Heaven, ²⁹⁵
That slid into my soul.

By grace of the
Holy Mother, the
ancient Mariner is
refreshed with rain.

"The silly buckets on the
deck,
That had so long remained,
I dreamt that they were
filled with dew;
And when I awoke, it
rained. ³⁰⁰

"My lips were wet, my
throat was cold,
My garments all were dank;
Sure I had drunken in my
dreams,
And still my body drank.

"I moved, and could not
feel my limbs: ³⁰⁵
I was so light—almost
I thought that I had died
in sleep,
And was a blessed ghost.

He heareth sounds
and seeth strange
sights and commo-
tions in the sky
and the element.

"And soon I heard a roar-
ing wind:
It did not come anear; ³¹⁰
But with its sound it shook
the sails,
That were so thin and sere.

"The upper air burst into
life!
And a hundred fire-flags
sheen,
To and fro they were hur-
ried about; ³¹⁵
And to and fro, and in and
out,
The wan stars danced be-
tween.

"And the coming wind did
roar more loud,
And the sails did sigh like
sedge;
And the rain poured down
from one black cloud;
The moon was at its edge.

"The thick black cloud was
cleft, and still ³²²
The moon was at its side:
Like waters shot from some
high crag,
The lightning fell with
never a jag, ³²⁵
A river steep and wide.

"The loud wind never
reached the ship,
Yet now the ship moved on!
Beneath the lightning and
the moon
The dead men gave a groan.

The bodies of the
ship's crew are in-
spired, and the
ship moves on;

"They groaned, they stirred,
they all uprose, ³³¹
Nor spake, nor moved their
eyes;
It had been strange, even
in a dream,
To have seen those dead
men rise.

"The helmsman steered,
the ship moved on; ³³⁵
Yet never a breeze up-blew;
The mariners all 'gan work
the ropes,
Where they were wont to
do:
They raised their limbs
like lifeless tools—
We were a ghastly crew.

"The body of my brother's
son ³⁴¹
Stood by me, knee to knee:
The body and I pulled at
one rope,
But he said nought to me."

"I fear thee, ancient Mar-
iner!" ³⁴⁵
"Be calm, thou Wedding-
Guest!

But not by the
souls of the men,
nor by demons of
earth or middle
air, but by a
blessed troop of
angelic spirits, sent
down by the in-
vocation of the
guardian saint.

'Twas not those souls that
fled in pain,
Which to their corpses came
again,
But a troop of spirits blest:

"For when it dawned—
they dropped their
arms, 350
And clustered round the
mast;

Sweet sounds rose slowly
through their mouths,
And from their bodies
passed.

"Around, around, flew each
sweet sound,
Then darted to the sun; 355
Slowly the sounds came
back again,
Now mixed, now one by
one.

"Sometimes a-dropping
from the sky
I heard the skylark sing;
Sometimes all little birds
that are, 360
How they seemed to fill
the sea and air
With their sweet jargoning!

"And now 'twas like all
instruments,
Now like a lonely flute;
And now it is an angel's
song, 365
That makes the heavens be
mute.

"It ceased; yet still the
sails made on
A pleasant noise till noon,
A noise like of a hidden
brook
In the leafy month of
June, 370
That to the sleeping woods
all night
Singeth a quiet tune.

"Till noon we quietly sailed
on,
Yet never a breeze did
breathe:

Slowly and smoothly went
the ship, 375
Moved onward from be-
neath.

"Under the keel nine
fathom deep,
From the land of mist and
snow,

The spirit slid; and it was
he

That made the ship to go.
The sails at noon left off
their tune, 381
And the ship stood still
also.

"The sun, right up above
the mast,
Had fixed her to the ocean;
But in a minute she 'gan
stir, 385
With a short uneasy mo-
tion—

Backwards and forwards
half her length,
With a short uneasy mo-
tion.

"Then like a pawing horse
let go,
She made a sudden bound:
It flung the blood into my
head, 391
And I fell down in a swoond.

"How long in that same fit
I lay,
I have not to declare;
But ere my living life
returned, 395
I heard, and in my soul
discerned
Two voices in the air.

"'Is it he?' quoth one,
'is this the man?
By Him who died on cross,
With his cruel bow he laid
full low 400
The harmless Albatross.

"The spirit who bideth
by himself
In the land of mist and
snow,

The lonesome
Spirit from the
south pole carries
on the ship as far
as the Line, in
obedience to the
angelic troop, but
still requireth ven-
geance.

The Polar Spirit's
fellow-demons, the
invisible inhabit-
ants of the element,
take part in his
wrong, and two of
them relate, one
to the other, that
penance long and
heavy for the an-
cient Mariner hath
been accorded to
the Polar Spirit,
who returneth
southward.

He loved the bird that
loved the man
Who shot him with his
bow.' 405

"The other was a softer
voice,
As soft as honey-dew:
Quoth he, 'The man hath
penance done,
And penance more will do.'

PART VI

First Voice

"But tell me, tell me!
speak again, 410
Thy soft response renew-
ing—
What makes that ship drive
on so fast?
What is the ocean doing?'

Second Voice

"Still as a slave before
his lord,
The ocean hath no blast;
His great bright eye most
silently 416
Up to the moon is cast—
"If he may know which
way to go;
For she guides him, smooth
or grim.
See, brother, see! how gra-
ciously 420
She looketh down on him.'

First Voice

"But why drives on that
ship so fast,
Without or wave or wind?'

Second Voice

"The air is cut away
before,
And closes from behind.
"Fly, brother, fly! more
high, more high! 426
Or we shall be belated:
For slow and slow that ship
will go,
When the Mariner's trance
is abated.'

"I woke, and we were
sailing on, 430
As in a gentle weather:
'Twas night, calm night,
the moon was high;
The dead men stood to-
gether.

"All stood together on the
deck,
For a charnel-dungeon fitter:
All fixed on me their stony
eyes, 436
That in the moon did glitter.

"The pang, the curse, with
which they died,
Had never passed away:
I could not draw my eyes
from theirs, 440
Nor turn them up to pray.

"And now this spell was
snapt: once more
I viewed the ocean green,
And looked far forth, yet
little saw
Of what had else been seen—

"Like one, that on a lone-
some road 446
Doth walk in fear and dread,
And having once turned
round, walks on,
And turns no more his
head;
Because he knows a fright-
ful fiend 450
Doth close behind him
tread.

"But soon there breathed
a wind on me,
Nor sound nor motion made:
Its path was not upon the
sea,
In ripple or in shade. 455

"It raised my hair, it
fanned my cheek
Like a meadow-gale of
spring—
It mingled strangely with
my fears,
Yet it felt like a welcoming.

The supernatural
motion is retarded;
the Mariner
awakes, and his
penance begins
anew.

The curse is finally
expiated.

The Mariner hath
been cast into a
trance; for the an-
gelic power causeth
the vessel to drive
northward faster
than human life
could endure.

"Swiftly, swiftly flew the
ship, 460
Yet she sailed softly too:
Sweetly, sweetly blew the
breeze—
On me alone it blew.

And the ancient
Mariner beholdeth
his native country.

"Oh! dream of joy! is this
indeed
The lighthouse top I see?
Is this the hill? is this the
kirk? 466
Is this mine own countree?
"We drifted o'er the harbor-
bar,
And I with sobs did pray—
'O let me be awake, my
God! 470
Or let me sleep away.'

"The harbor-bay was clear
as glass,
So smoothly it was strewn!
And on the bay the moon-
light lay,
And the shadow of the
moon. 475

"The rock shone bright,
the kirk no less,
That stands above the rock:
The moonlight steeped in
silentness
The steady weathercock.

The angelic spirits
leave the dead
bodies.

"And the bay was white
with silent light, 480
Till rising from the same,
Full many shapes, that
shadows were,
In crimson colors came.

And appear in their
own forms of light.

"A little distance from the
prow
Those crimson shadows
were: 485
I turned my eyes upon the
deck—
Oh, Christ! what saw I
there!

"Each corse lay flat, life-
less and flat,
And, by the holy rood!
A man all light, a seraph-
man, 490
On every corse there stood.

"This seraph-band, each
waved his hand:
It was a heavenly sight!
They stood as signals to
the land,
Each one a lovely light:

"This seraph-band, each
waved his hand, 496
No voice did they impart—
No voice; but oh! the
silence sank
Like music on my heart.

"But soon I heard the
dash of oars, 500
I heard the pilot's cheer;
My head was turned per-
force away,
And I saw a boat appear.

"The pilot, and the pilot's
boy,
I heard them coming fast:
Dear Lord in Heaven! it
was a joy 506
The dead men could not
blast.

"I saw a third—I heard his
voice:
It is the Hermit good!
He singeth loud his godly
hymns 510
That he makes in the wood.
He'll shrieve my soul, he'll
wash away
The Albatross's blood.

PART VII

"This Hermit good lives
in that wood
Which slopes down to the
sea. 515
How loudly his sweet voice
he rears!
He loves to talk with mari-
neres
That come from a far
countree.

The Hermit of the
wood.

"He kneels at morn, and
noon, and eve—
He hath a cushion plump:

It is the moss that wholly
hides ⁵²¹
The rotted old oak-stump.

"The skiff-boat neared: I
heard them talk,
'Why, this is strange, I
trow!
Where are those lights so
many and fair, ⁵²⁵
That signal made but now?'

Approacheth the
ship with wonder.

"'Strange, by my faith!'
the Hermit said—
'And they answered not our
cheer!
The planks look warped!
and see those sails,
How thin they are and sere!
I never saw aught like to
them, ⁵³¹
Unless perchance it were

"'Brown skeletons of
leaves that lag
My forest-brook along:
When the ivy-tod is heavy
with snow, ⁵³⁵
And the owlet whoops to
the wolf below,
That eats the she-wolf's
young.'

"'Dear Lord! it hath a
fiendish look'—
(The pilot made reply)
'I am a-feared'—'Push on,
push on!' ⁵⁴⁰
Said the Hermit cheerily.

"The boat came closer to
the ship,
But I nor spake nor stirred;
The boat came close be-
neath the ship,
And straight a sound was
heard. ⁵⁴⁵

The ship suddenly
sinketh.

"Under the water it rum-
bled on,
Still louder and more dread:
It reached the ship, it
split the bay;
The ship went down like
lead.

"Stunned by that loud and
dreadful sound, ⁵⁵⁰
Which sky and ocean smote,
Like one that hath been
seven days drowned,
My body lay afloat;
But swift as dreams, my-
self I found
Within the pilot's boat. ⁵⁵⁵

The ancient Mar-
iner is saved in
the Pilot's boat.

"Upon the whirl, where
sank the ship,
The boat spun round and
round;
And all was still, save that
the hill
Was telling of the sound.

"I moved my lips—the
pilot shrieked, ⁵⁶⁰
And fell down in a fit;
The holy Hermit raised his
eyes,
And prayed where he did
sit.

"I took the oars: the pilot's
boy,
Who now doth crazy go,
Laughed loud and long,
and all the while ⁵⁶⁶
His eyes went to and fro.
'Ha! ha!' quoth he, 'full
plain I see,
The Devil knows how to
row.'

"And now, all in my own
countree, ⁵⁷⁰
I stood on the firm land!
The Hermit stepped forth
from the boat,
And scarcely he could stand.

"O shrieve me, shrieve me,
holy man!
The Hermit crossed his
brow. ⁵⁷⁵
'Say quick,' quoth he, 'I
bid thee say—
What manner of man art
thou?'

The ancient Mar-
iner earnestly en-
treateth the Her-
mit to shrieve him;
and the pence of
life falls on him.

"Forthwith this frame of
mine was wrenched
With a woeful agony,

Which forced me to begin
my tale; 580
And then it left me free.

And ever and anon
throughout his fu-
ture life an agony
constraineth him
to travel from land
to land,

"Since then at an uncer-
tain hour,
That agony returns;
And till my ghastly tale is
told,
This heart within me burns.

"I pass, like night, from
land to land; 586
I have strange power of
speech;
That moment that his face
I see,
I know the man that must
hear me:
To him my tale I teach. 590

"What loud uproar bursts
from that door:
The wedding-guests are
there;
But in the garden-bower
the bride
And bride-maids singing
are;
And hark the little vesper
bell, 595
Which biddeth me to
prayer!

"O Wedding-Guest! this
soul hath been
Alone on a wide, wide sea:
So lonely 'twas, that God
himself
Scarce seemèd there to be.

"O sweeter than the mar-
riage-feast, 601
'Tis sweeter far to me,
To walk together to the
kirk
With a goodly company!—

"To walk together to the
kirk, 605
And all together pray,
While each to his great
Father bends,

Old men, and babes, and
loving friends,
And youths and maidens
gay!

"Farewell, farewell! but
this I tell 610
To thee, thou Wedding-
Guest!

And to teach, by
his own example,
love and reverence
to all things that
God made and
loveth.

He prayeth well, who
loveth well
Both man and bird and
beast.

"He prayeth best, who
loveth best
All things both great and
small; 615
For the dear God who
loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

The Mariner, whose eye
is bright,
Whose beard with age is
hoar,
Is gone; and now the Wed-
ding-Guest 620
Turned from the bride-
groom's door.

He went like one that hath
been stunned,
And is of sense forlorn:
A sadder and a wiser man
He rose the morrow morn.

FROST AT MIDNIGHT

The frost performs its secret ministry,
Unhelped by any wind. The owl's cry
Came loud—and hark, again! loud as be-
fore.

The inmates of my cottage, all at rest,
Have left me to that solitude, which suits
Abstruser musings: save that at my side
My cradled infant slumbers peacefully.
'Tis calm indeed! so calm, that it dis-
turbs

And vexes meditation with its strange
And extreme silentness. Sea, hill, and
wood, 10
This populous village! Sea, and hill, and
wood,

With all the numberless goings on of life
 Inaudible as dreams! the thin blue flame
 Lies on my low-burnt fire, and quivers not;
 Only that film, which fluttered on the
 grate, 15
 Still flutters there, the sole unquiet thing.
 Methinks, its motion in this hush of nature
 Gives it dim sympathies with me who live,
 Making it a companionable form,
 Whose puny flaps and freaks the idling
 Spirit 20

By its own moods interprets, everywhere
 Echo or mirror seeking of itself,
 And makes a toy of Thought.

But oh! how oft,
 How oft, at school, with most believing
 mind, 25
 Presageful, have I gazed upon the bars,
 To watch that fluttering stranger! and as
 oft

With unclosed lids, already had I dreamt
 Of my sweet birth-place, and the old
 church-tower,

Whose bells, the poor man's only music,
 rang 30

From morn to evening, all the hot Fair-
 day,
 So sweetly, that they stirred and haunted
 me

With a wild pleasure, falling on mine ear
 Most like articulate sounds of things to
 come!

So gazed I, till the soothing things I
 dreamt 35

Lulled me to sleep, and sleep prolonged my
 dreams!

And so I brooded all the following morn,
 Awed by the stern preceptor's face, mine
 eye

Fixed with mock study on my swimming
 book:

Save if the door half opened, and I
 snatched 40

A hasty glance, and still my heart leaped
 up

For still I hoped to see the stranger's face,
 Townsman, or aunt, or sister more
 loved,

My play-mate when we both were clothed
 alike!

Dear babe, that sleepest cradled by my
 side, 45

Whose gentle breathings, heard in this
 deep calm,

Fill up the interspersèd vacancies
 And momentary pauses of the thought!
 My babe so beautiful! it thrills my heart
 With tender gladness, thus to look at
 thee, 50

And think that thou shalt learn far other
 lore

And in far other scenes! For I was reared
 In the great city, pent 'mid cloisters dim,
 And saw naught lovely but the sky and
 stars.

But thou, my babe! shalt wander like a
 breeze 55

By lakes and sandy shores, beneath the
 crags

Of ancient mountain, and beneath the
 clouds,

Which image in their bulk both lakes and
 shores

And mountain crags: so shalt thou see and
 hear

The lovely shapes and sounds intelligible
 Of that eternal language, which thy God 61

Utters, who from eternity doth teach
 Himself in all, and all things in himself.

Great universal Teacher! he shall mould
 Thy spirit, and by giving make it ask. 65

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to
 thee,

Whether the summer clothe the general
 earth

With greenness, or the redbreast sit and
 sing

Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare
 branch

Of mossy apple-tree, while the nigh
 thatch 70

Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the
 eavedrops fall

Heard only in the trances of the blast,

Or if the secret ministry of frost

Shall hang them up in silent icicles,

Quietly shining to the quiet moon. 75

HYMN

BEFORE SUNRISE IN THE VALE OF CHAMOUNI

Hast thou a charm to stay the morning-
 star

In his steep course? So long he seems
 to pause

On thy bald awful head, O sovran Blanc!
The Arve and Arveiron at thy base
Rave ceaselessly; but thou, most awful
Form! 5

Risest from forth thy silent sea of pines,
How silently! Around thee and above
Deep is the air and dark, substantial,
black,

An ebon mass: methinks thou piercest it
As with a wedge! But when I look again,
It is thine own calm home, thy crystal
shrine, 11

Thy habitation from eternity!
O dread and silent Mount! I gazed upon
thee,

Till thou, still present to the bodily sense,
Didst vanish from my thought: entranced
in prayer 15

I worshipped the Invisible alone.

Yet, like some sweet beguiling melody,
So sweet, we know not we are listening
to it,

Thou, the meanwhile, wast blending with
my thought,

Yea, with my life and life's own secret
joy: 20

Till the dilating Soul, enrapt, transfused,
Into the mighty vision passing—there,
As in her natural form, swelled vast to
Heaven!

Awake, my soul! not only passive praise
Thou owest! not alone these swelling tears,
Mute thanks and secret ecstasy! Awake,
Voice of sweet song! Awake, my heart,
awake! 27

Green vales and icy cliffs, all join my
Hymn.

Thou first and chief, sole sovran of the
Vale!

O struggling with the darkness all the
night, 30

And visited all night by troops of stars,
Or when they climb the sky or when they
sink:

Companion of the morning-star at dawn,
Thyself earth's rosy star, and of the dawn
Co-herald! wake, oh wake, and utter
praise! 35

Who sank thy sunless pillars deep in
Earth?

Who filled thy countenance with rosy
light?

Who made thee parent of perpetual
streams?

And you, ye five wild torrents fiercely
glad!

Who called you forth from night and utter
death, 40

From dark and icy caverns called you
forth,

Down those precipitous, black, jagged
rocks,

Forever shattered and the same forever?

Who gave you your invulnerable life,

Your strength, your speed, your fury, and
your joy, 45

Unceasing thunder and eternal foam?

And who commanded (and the silence
came),

Here let the billows stiffen, and have rest?

Ye ice-falls! ye that from the moun-
tain's brow

Adown enormous ravines slope amain— 50

Torrents, methinks, that heard a mighty
voice,

And stopped at once amid their maddest
plunge!

Motionless torrents! silent cataracts!

Who made you glorious as the gates of
Heaven

Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade
the sun 55

Clothe you with rainbows? Who, with
living flowers

Of loveliest blue, spread garlands at your
feet?—

God! let the torrents, like a shout of na-
tions,

Answer! and let the ice-plains echo, God!

God! sing, ye meadow-streams, with glad-
some voice! 60

Ye pine-groves, with your soft and soul-
like sounds!

And they too have a voice, yon piles of
snow,

And in their perilous fall shall thunder,
God!

Ye living flowers that skirt the eternal
frost!

Ye wild goats sporting round the eagle's
nest! 65

Ye eagles, play-mates of the mountain-
storm!

Ye lightnings, the dread arrows of the
clouds!

Ye signs and wonders of the element!

Utter forth God, and fill the hills with
praise!

Thou too, hoar Mount! with thy sky-
 pointing peaks, 70
 Oft from whose feet the avalanche, un-
 heard,
 Shoots downward, glittering through the
 pure serene
 Into the depth of clouds that veil thy
 breast—
 Thou too again, stupendous Mountain!
 thou
 That as I raise my head, awhile bowed
 low 75
 In adoration, upward from thy base
 Slow-travelling with dim eyes diffused
 with tears,
 Solemnly seemest, like a vapory cloud,
 To rise before me—Rise, oh ever rise,
 Rise like a cloud of incense, from the earth!
 Thou kingly spirit throned among the
 hills, 81
 Thou dread ambassador from earth to
 heaven,
 Great hierarch! tell thou the silent sky,
 And tell the stars, and tell yon rising
 sun,
 Earth, with her thousand voices, praises
 God. 85

DEJECTION: AN ODE

Late, late yestreen I saw the new Moon
 With the old Moon in her arms;
 And I fear, I fear, my Master dear!
 We shall have a deadly storm.
Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens.

I

Well! If the Bard was weather-wise, who
 made
 The grand old ballad of Sir Patrick
 Spens,
 This night, so tranquil now, will not go
 hence
 Unroused by winds, that ply a busier
 trade
 Than those which mould yon cloud in
 lazy flakes, 5
 Or the dull sobbing draft, that moans and
 rakes
 Upon the strings of this Æolian lute,
 Which better far were mute;
 For lo! the new-moon winter bright!
 And overspread with phantom light, 10

(With swimming phantom light o'er-
 spread
 But rimmed and circled by a silver
 thread)
 I see the old moon in her lap, foretelling
 The coming-on of rain and squally
 blast.
 And oh! that even now the gust were
 swelling, 15
 And the slant night-shower driving
 loud and fast!
 Those sounds which oft have raised me,
 whilst they awed,
 And sent my soul abroad,
 Might now perhaps their wonted impulse
 give,
 Might startle this dull pain, and make it
 live! 20

II

A grief without a pang, void, dark, and
 drear,
 A stifled, drowsy, unimpassioned grief,
 Which finds no natural outlet, no relief,
 In word, or sigh, or tear—
 O Lady! in this wan and heartless mood, 25
 To other thoughts by yonder throstle
 wooed,
 All this long eve, so balmy and serene,
 Have I been gazing on the western sky,
 And its peculiar tint of yellow green:
 And still I gaze—and with how blank an
 eye! 30
 And those thin clouds above, in flakes and
 bars,
 That give away their motion to the stars;
 Those stars, that glide behind them or be-
 tween,
 Now sparkling, now bedimmed, but al-
 ways seen:
 Yon crescent moon, as fixed as if it grew 35
 In its own cloudless, starless lake of blue;
 I see them all so excellently fair,
 I see, not feel, how beautiful they are!

III

My genial spirits fail;
 And what can these avail 40
 To lift the smothering weight from off my
 breast?
 It were a vain endeavor,
 Though I should gaze for ever
 On that green light that lingers in the
 west:

I may not hope from outward forms to win 45
The passion and the life, whose fountains
are within.

IV

O Lady, we receive but what we give,
And in our life alone does Nature live:
Ours is her wedding garment, ours her
shroud!

And what we ought behold, of higher
worth, 50

Than that inanimate cold world allowed
To the poor loveless ever-anxious crowd,
Ah! from the soul itself must issue forth
A light, a glory, a fair luminous cloud

Enveloping the earth— 55

And from the soul itself must there be sent
A sweet and potent voice, of its own
birth,

Of all sweet sounds the life and element!

V

O pure of heart! thou need'st not ask of
me

What this strong music in the soul may
be! 60

What, and wherein it doth exist,
This light, this glory, this fair luminous
mist,

This beautiful and beauty-making power.
Joy, virtuous Lady! Joy that ne'er was
given,

Save to the pure, and in their purest hour,
Life, and Life's effluence, cloud at once
and shower, 66

Joy, Lady! is the spirit and the power,
Which wedding Nature to us gives in
dower,

A new earth and new heaven,
Undreamt of by the sensual and the
proud— 70

Joy is the sweet voice, Joy the luminous
cloud—

We in ourselves rejoice!
And thence flows all that charms or ear
or sight,

All melodies the echoes of that voice,
All colors a suffusion from that light. 75

VI

There was a time when, though my path
was rough,

This joy within me dallied with distress,

And all misfortunes were but as the stuff
Whence Fancy made me dreams of hap-
piness:

For hope grew round me, like the twining
vine, 80

And fruits, and foliage, not my own,
seemed mine.

But now afflictions bow me down to
earth:

Nor care I that they rob me of my mirth;
But oh! each visitation

Suspends what Nature gave me at my
birth, 85

My shaping spirit of Imagination.
For not to think of what I needs must feel,
But to be still and patient, all I can;

And haply by abstruse research to steal
From my own nature all the natural
man— 90

This was my sole resource, my only
plan:

Till that which suits a part infects the
whole,

And now is almost grown the habit of my
soul.

VII

Hence, viper thoughts, that coil around
my mind,

Reality's dark dream! 95

I turn from you, and listen to the wind,
Which long has raved unnoticed.

What a scream
Of agony by torture lengthened out

That lute sent forth! Thou Wind, that
ravest without,

Bare crag, or mountain-tairn, or blasted
tree, 100

Or pine-grove whither woodman never
clomb,

Or lonely house, long held the witches'
home,

Methinks were fitter instruments for
thee,

Mad Lutanist! who in this month of
showers,

Of dark-brown gardens, and of peeping
flowers, 105

Makest Devils' yule, with worse than
wintry song,

The blossoms, buds, and timorous leaves
among.

Thou Actor, perfect in all tragic sounds!
Thou mighty Poet, even to frenzy bold!

What tell'st thou now about? 110
 'Tis of the rushing of an host in
 rout,
 With groans of trampled men, with
 smarting wounds—
 At once they groan with pain, and shudder
 with the cold!
 But hush! there is a pause of deepest
 silence!
 And all that noise, as of a rushing
 crowd, 115
 With groans and tremulous shudderings—
 all is over—
 It tells another tale, with sounds less
 deep and loud!
 A tale of less affright,
 And tempered with delight,
 As Otway's self had framed the tender
 lay; 120
 'Tis of a little child
 Upon a lonesome wild,
 Not far from home, but she hath lost her
 way:
 And now moans low in bitter grief and
 fear,
 And now screams loud, and hopes to make
 her mother hear. 125

VIII

'Tis midnight, but small thoughts have I
 of sleep:
 Full seldom may my friend such vigils
 keep!
 Visit her, gentle Sleep! with wings of
 healing,
 And may this storm be but a mountain
 birth,
 May all the stars hang bright above her
 dwelling, 130
 Silent as though they watched the sleep-
 ing Earth!
 With light heart may she rise,
 Gay fancy, cheerful eyes,
 Joy lift her spirit, joy attune her
 voice;
 To her may all things live, from pole to
 pole, 135
 Their life the eddying of her living soul!
 O simple spirit, guided from above,
 Dear Lady! friend devoutest of my
 choice,
 Thus mayest thou ever, evermore re-
 joice.

YOUTH AND AGE

Verse, a breeze mid blossoms straying,
 Where Hope clung feeding, like a bee—
 Both were mine! Life went a-maying
 With Nature, Hope, and Poesy,
 When I was young! 5

When I was young?—Ah, woeful When!
 Ah! for the change 'twixt Now and Then!
 This breathing house not built with
 hands,
 This body that does me grievous wrong,
 O'er aery cliffs and glittering sands, 10
 How lightly *then* it flashed along:—
 Like those trim skiffs, unknown of yore,
 On winding lakes and rivers wide,
 That ask no aid of sail or oar,
 That fear no spite of wind or tide! 15
 Nought cared this body for wind or
 weather
 When Youth and I lived in't together.

Flowers are lovely; Love is flower-like;
 Friendship is a sheltering tree;
 Oh! the joys, that came down shower-
 like, 20
 Of Friendship, Love, and Liberty,
 Ere I was old!

Ere I was old? Ah woeful Ere,
 Which tells me, Youth's no longer here!
 O Youth! for years so many and sweet, 25
 'Tis known, that thou and I were one,
 I'll think it but a fond conceit—
 It cannot be that thou art gone!
 Thy vesper-bell hath not yet tolled:—
 And thou wert aye a masker bold! 30
 What strange disguise hast now put on,
 To *make believe*, that thou art gone?
 I see these locks in silvery slips,
 This drooping gait, this altered size:
 But Spring-tide blossoms on thy lips, 35
 And tears take sunshine from thine eyes!
 Life is but thought: so think I will
 That Youth and I are house-mates still.

Dew-drops are the gems of morning,
 But the tears of mournful eve! 40
 Where no hope is, life's a warning
 That only serves to make us grieve,
 When we are old:
 That only serves to make us grieve
 With oft and tedious taking-leave, 45

Like some poor nigh-related guest,
That may not rudely be dismissed;
Yet hath out-stayed his welcome while,
And tells the jest without the smile.

WORK WITHOUT HOPE

All Nature seems at work. Slugs leave
their lair—
The bees are stirring—birds are on the
wing—
And Winter slumbering in the open air,
Wears on his smiling face a dream of
Spring!
And I the while, the sole unbusy thing, 5
Nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor
sing.

Yet well I ken the banks where amar-
ranths blow,
Have traced the fount whence streams of
nectar flow.
Bloom, O ye amarantths! bloom for whom
ye may,
For me ye bloom not! Glide, rich streams,
away! 10
With lips unbrightened, wreathless brow,
I stroll:
And would you learn the spells that
drowse my soul?
Work without Hope draws nectar in a
sieve,
And Hope without an object cannot live.

From the BIOGRAPHIA LITERARIA

CHAPTER XIV

During the first year that Mr. Wordsworth and I were neighbors, our conversations turned frequently on the two cardinal points of poetry, the power of exciting the sympathy of the reader by a faithful adherence to the truth of nature, and the power of giving the interest of novelty by the modifying colors of imagination. The sudden charm, which accidents of light and shade, which [10] moonlight or sunset, diffused over a known and familiar landscape, appeared to represent the practicability of combining both. These are the poetry of nature. The thought suggested itself (to which of

us I do not recollect) that a series of poems might be composed of two sorts. In the one, the incidents and agents were to be, in part at least, supernatural; and the excellence aimed at was to consist [20] in the interesting of the affections by the dramatic truth of such emotions as would naturally accompany such situations, supposing them real. And real in this sense they have been to every human being who, from whatever source of delusion, has at any time believed himself under supernatural agency. For the second class, subjects were to be chosen from ordinary life; the characters and [30] incidents were to be such as will be found in every village and its vicinity, where there is a meditative and feeling mind to seek after them, or to notice them when they present themselves.

In this idea originated the plan of the *Lyrical Ballads*; in which it was agreed that my endeavors should be directed to persons and characters supernatural, or at least romantic; yet so as to transfer [40] from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth sufficient to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith. Mr. Wordsworth, on the other hand, was to propose to himself as his object, to give the charm of novelty to things of every day, and to excite a feeling analogous to the supernatural, by [50] awakening the mind's attention from the lethargy of custom, and directing it to the loveliness and the wonders of the world before us; an inexhaustible treasure, but for which, in consequence of the film of familiarity and selfish solicitude, we have eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that neither feel nor understand.

With this view I wrote *The Ancient* [60] *Mariner*, and was preparing, among other poems, *The Dark Ladie*, and the *Christabel*, in which I should have more nearly realized my ideal than I had done in my first attempt. But Mr. Wordsworth's industry had proved so much more successful, and the number of his poems so much greater, that my compositions, instead of forming a balance, appeared

rather an interpolation of heterogeneous matter. Mr. Wordsworth added two or three poems written in his own character, in the impassioned, lofty, and sustained diction which is characteristic of his genius. In this form the *Lyrical Ballads* were published; and were presented by him, as an experiment, whether subjects, which from their nature rejected the usual ornaments and extra-colloquial style of poems in general, might not [80] be so managed in the language of ordinary life as to produce the pleasurable interest which it is the peculiar business of poetry to impart. To the second edition he added a preface of considerable length; in which, notwithstanding some passages of apparently a contrary import, he was understood to contend for the extension of this style to poetry of all kinds, and to reject as vicious and indefensible all [90] phrases and forms of style that were not included in what he (unfortunately, I think, adopting an equivocal expression,) called the language of real life. From this preface, prefixed to poems in which it was impossible to deny the presence of original genius, however mistaken its direction might be deemed, arose the whole long-continued controversy. For from the conjunction of perceived power [100] with supposed heresy I explain the inveteracy, and in some instances, I grieve to say, the acrimonious passions, with which the controversy has been conducted by the assailants.

Had Mr. Wordsworth's poems been the silly, the childish things, which they were for a long time described as being; had they been really distinguished from the compositions of other poets merely by [110] meanness of language, and inanity of thought; had they indeed contained nothing more than what is found in the parodies and pretended imitations of them; they must have sunk at once, a dead weight, into the slough of oblivion, and have dragged the preface along with them. But year after year increased the number of Mr. Wordsworth's admirers. They were found, too, not in the lower [120] classes of the reading public, but chiefly among young men of strong sensibility and meditative minds; and their admira-

tion (inflamed perhaps in some degree by opposition) was distinguished by its intensity, I might almost say by its religious fervor. These facts, and the intellectual energy of the author, which was more or less consciously felt, where it was outwardly and even boisterously denied, meeting with sentiments of aversion to his opinions, and of alarm at their consequences, produced an eddy of criticism, which would of itself have borne up the poems by the violence with which it whirled them round and round. With many parts of this preface, in the sense attributed to them, and which the words undoubtedly seem to authorize, I never concurred; but, on the contrary, [140] objected to them as erroneous in principle, and as contradictory (in appearance at least) both to other parts of the same preface and to the author's own practice in the greater number of the poems themselves. Mr. Wordsworth, in his recent collection, has, I find, degraded this prefatory disquisition to the end of his second volume, to be read or not at the reader's choice. But he [150] has not, as far as I can discover, announced any change in his poetic creed. At all events, considering it as the source of a controversy, in which I have been honored more than I deserve by the frequent conjunction of my name with his, I think it expedient to declare, once for all, in what points I coincide with his opinions, and in what points I altogether differ. But in order to render myself [160] intelligible, I must previously, in as few words as possible, explain my ideas, first, of a poem; and secondly, of poetry itself, in kind and in essence.

The office of philosophical disquisition consists in just distinction; while it is the privilege of the philosopher to preserve himself constantly aware that distinction is not division. In order to obtain adequate notions of any truth, [170] we must intellectually separate its distinguishable parts; and this is the technical process of philosophy. But having so done, we must then restore them in our conceptions to the unity in which they actually coexist; and this is the result of philosophy. A poem contains the same

elements as a prose composition; the difference, therefore, must consist in a different combination of them, in consequence of a different object proposed. According to the difference of the object will be the difference of the combination. It is possible that the object may be merely to facilitate the recollection of any given facts or observations by artificial arrangement; and the composition will be a poem, merely because it is distinguished from prose by meter, or by rime, or by both conjointly. In this, [190 the lowest sense, a man might attribute the name of a poem to the well-known enumeration of the days in the several months:

"Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November," etc.,

and others of the same class and purpose. And as a particular pleasure is found in anticipating the recurrence of sound and quantities, all compositions [200 that have this charm superadded, whatever be their contents, *may* be entitled poems.

So much for the superficial form. A difference of object and contents supplies an additional ground of distinction. The immediate purpose may be the communication of truths: either of truth absolute and demonstrable, as in works of science; or of facts experienced and recorded, [210 as in history. Pleasure, and that of the highest and most permanent kind, may result from the attainment of the end; but it is not itself the immediate end. In other works the communication of pleasure may be the immediate purpose; and though truth, either moral or intellectual, ought to be the ultimate end, yet this will distinguish the character of the author, not the class to which the [220 work belongs. . . .

But the communication of pleasure may be the immediate object of a work not metrically composed; and that object may have been in a high degree attained, as in novels and romances. Would then the mere superaddition of meter, with or without rime, entitle these to the name of poems? The answer is, that nothing can permanently please, which does [230

not contain in itself the reason why it is so, and not otherwise. If meter be superadded, all other parts must be made consonant with it. They must be such as to justify the perpetual and distinct attention to each part, which an exact correspondent recurrence of accent and sound are calculated to excite. The final definition then, so deduced, may be thus worded. A poem is that species [240 of composition, which is opposed to works of science, by proposing for its *immediate* object pleasure, not truth; and from all other species (having *this* object in common with it) it is discriminated by proposing to itself such delight from the *whole*, as is compatible with a distinct gratification from each component *part*.

Controversy is not seldom excited in consequence of the disputants at- [250 taching each a different meaning to the same word; and in few instances has this been more striking than in disputes concerning the present subject. If a man chooses to call every composition a poem, which is rime, or measure, or both, I must leave his opinion uncontroverted. The distinction is at least competent to characterize the writer's intention. If it were subjoined, that the whole is likewise [260 entertaining or affecting as a tale, or as a series of interesting reflections, I of course admit this as another fit ingredient of a poem, and an additional merit. But if the definition sought for be that of a legitimate poem, I answer, it must be one the parts of which mutually support and explain each other; all in their proportion harmonizing with, and supporting the purpose and known in- [270 fluences of metrical arrangement. The philosophic critics of all ages coincide with the ultimate judgment of all countries, in equally denying the praises of a just poem, on the one hand, to a series of striking lines or distichs, each of which absorbing the whole attention of the reader to itself, disjoins it from its context, and makes it a separate whole, instead of a harmonizing part; and on [280 the other hand, to an unsustained composition, from which the reader collects rapidly the general result unattracted by the component parts. The reader should

be carried forward, not merely or chiefly by the mechanical impulse of curiosity, or by a restless desire to arrive at the final solution; but by the pleasurable activity of mind excited by the attractions of the journey itself. Like the motion of a [290] serpent, which the Egyptians made the emblem of intellectual power; or like the path of sound through the air, at every step he pauses and half recedes, and from the retrogressive movement collects the force which again carries him onward. *Præcipitandus est liber spiritus*, says Petronius Arbiter most happily. The epithet, *liber*, here balances the preceding verb: and it is not easy to conceive [300] more meaning condensed in fewer words.

But if this should be admitted as a satisfactory character of a poem, we have still to seek for a definition of poetry. The writings of Plato, and Bishop Taylor, and the *Theoria Sacra* of Burnet, furnish undeniable proofs that poetry of the highest kind may exist without meter, and even without the contra-distinguishing objects of a poem. The first chap- [310] ter of Isaiah (indeed a very large proportion of the whole book) is poetry in the most emphatic sense; yet it would be not less irrational than strange to assert, that pleasure, and not truth, was the immediate object of the prophet. In short, whatever specific import we attach to the word poetry, there will be found involved in it, as a necessary consequence, that a poem of any length neither can be, [320] nor ought to be, all poetry. Yet if a harmonious whole is to be produced, the remaining parts must be preserved in keeping with the poetry; and this can be no otherwise effected than by such a studied selection and artificial arrangement as will partake of one, though not a peculiar property of poetry. And this again can be no other than the property of exciting a more continuous and equal atten- [330] tion than the language of prose aims at, whether colloquial or written. . . .

What is poetry? is so nearly the same question with, what is a poet? that the answer to the one is involved in the solution of the other. For it is a distinction resulting from the poetic genius itself, which sustains and modifies the images,

thoughts, and emotions of the poet's own mind. The poet, described in [340] ideal perfection, brings the whole soul of man into activity, with the subordination of its faculties to each other, according to their relative worth and dignity. He diffuses a tone and spirit of unity, that blends, and (as it were) *fuses*, each into each, by that synthetic and magical power, to which we have exclusively appropriated the name of imagination. This power, first put [350] in action by the will and understanding, and retained under their irremissive, though gentle and unnoticed, control (*laxis effertur habenis*), reveals itself in the balance or reconciliation of opposite or discordant qualities: of sameness, with difference; of the general, with the concrete; the idea, with the image; the individual, with the representative; the sense of novelty and freshness, with [360] old and familiar objects; a more than usual state of emotion, with more than usual order; judgment ever awake and steady self-possession with enthusiasm and feeling profound or vehement; and while it blends and harmonizes the natural and the artificial, still subordinates art to nature; the manner to the matter; and our admiration of the poet to our sympathy with the poetry. "Doubt- [370] less," as Sir John Davies observes of the soul (and his words may with slight alteration be applied, and even more appropriately, to the poetic imagination),—

"Doubtless this could not be, but that she turns

Bodies to spirit by sublimation strange,
As fire converts to fire the things it burns,
As we our food into our nature change.

"From their gross matter she abstracts
their forms,

And draws a kind of quintessence from
things; [380]
Which to her proper nature she transforms
To bear them light on her celestial
wings.

"Thus does she, when from individual
states

She doth abstract the universal kinds;

Which then re-clothed in divers names and
fates
Steal access through our senses to our
minds."

Finally, good sense is the body of poetic
genius, fancy its drapery, motion its life,
and imagination the soul that is every-
where, and in each, and forms all into [390
one graceful and intelligent whole.

ROBERT SOUTHEY (1774-1843)

THE INCHCAPE ROCK

No stir in the air, no stir in the sea,
The ship was still as she could be,
Her sails from heaven received no motion,
Her keel was steady in the ocean.

Without either sign or sound of their
shock
The waves flowed over the Inchcape Rock; 5
So little they rose, so little they fell,
They did not move the Inchcape Bell.

The Abbot of Aberbrothok
Had placed that bell on the Inchcape
Rock; 10
On a buoy in the storm it floated and
swung,
And over the waves its warning rung.

When the Rock was hid by the surge's
swell,
The mariners heard the warning bell;
And then they knew the perilous Rock, 15
And blessed the Abbot of Aberbrothok.

The sun in heaven was shining gay,
All things were joyful on that day;
The sea-birds screamed as they wheeled
round,
And there was joyaunce in their sound. 20

The buoy of the Inchcape Bell was seen
A darker speck on the ocean green;
Sir Ralph the Rover walked his deck,
And he fixed his eye on the darker speck.

He felt the cheering power of spring, 25
It made him whistle, it made him sing;
His heart was mirthful to excess,
But the Rover's mirth was wickedness.

His eye was on the Inchcape float;
Quoth he, "My men, put out the boat, 30
And row me to the Inchcape Rock,
And I'll plague the Abbot of Aber-
brothok."

The boat is lowered, the boatmen row,
And to the Inchcape Rock they go;
Sir Ralph bent over from the boat, 35
And he cut the bell from the Inchcape
float.

Down sunk the bell with a gurgling sound,
The bubbles rose and burst around;
Quoth Sir Ralph, "The next who comes
to the rock
Won't bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok." 40

Sir Ralph the Rover sailed away,
He scoured the seas for many a day;
And now grown rich with plundered store
He steers his course for Scotland's shore.

So thick a haze o'erspreads the sky 45
They cannot see the sun on high;
The wind hath blown a gale all day,
At evening it hath died away.

On deck the Rover takes his stand,
So dark it is they see no land. 50
Quoth Sir Ralph, "It will be lighter soon,
For there is the dawn of the rising moon."

"Canst hear," said one, "the breakers
roar?
For methinks we should be near the
shore."

"Now where we are I cannot tell, 55
But I wish I could hear the Inchcape Bell."

They hear no sound, the swell is strong;
Though the wind hath fallen they drift
along,
Till the vessel strikes with a shivering
shock,—
"Oh Christ! it is the Inchcape Rock!" 60

Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair;
He cursed himself in his despair;
The waves rush in on every side,
The ship is sinking beneath the tide.

But even in his dying fear 65
One dreadful sound could the Rover hear,
A sound as if with the Inchcape Bell
The Devil below was ringing his knell.

MY DAYS AMONG THE DEAD ARE PASSED

My days among the Dead are passed;
 Around me I behold,
 Where'er these casual eyes are cast,
 The mighty minds of old;
 My never-failing friends are they, 5
 With whom I converse day by day.

With them I take delight in weal,
 And seek relief in woe;
 And while I understand and feel 10
 How much to them I owe,
 My cheeks have often been bedewed
 With tears of thoughtful gratitude.

My thoughts are with the Dead; with them
 I live in long-past years,
 Their virtues love, their faults condemn, 15
 Partake their hopes and fears,
 And from their lessons seek and find
 Instruction with an humble mind.

My hopes are with the Dead; anon 20
 My place with them will be,
 And I with them will travel on
 Through all futurity;
 Yet leaving here a name, I trust,
 That will not perish in the dust.

SIR WALTER SCOTT (1771-1832)

From MARMION, CANTO V

LOCHINVAR

O, young Lochinvar is come out of the west,
 Through all the wide Border his steed was the best;
 And, save his good broadsword, he weapons had none,
 He rode all unarmed, and he rode all alone.
 So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war, 5
 There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.

He stayed not for brake, and he stopped not for stone,
 He swam the Eske River where ford there was none;

But ere he lighted at Netherby gate,
 The bride had consented, the gallant came late; 10
 For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,
 Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave Lochinvar.

So boldly he entered the Netherby Hall,
 Among bridesmen, and kinsmen, and brothers, and all.
 Then spoke the bride's father, his hand on his sword 15
 (For the poor craven bridegroom said never a word),
 "O, come ye in peace here, or come ye in war,
 Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord Lochinvar?"

"I long wooed your daughter, my suit you denied;—
 Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide,—" 20
 And now I am come, with this lost love of mine,
 To lead but one measure, drink one cup of wine.
 There are maidens in Scotland more lovely by far,
 That would gladly be bride to the young Lochinvar."

The bride kissed the goblet; the knight took it up, 25
 He quaffed off the wine, and he threw down the cup.
 She looked down to blush, and she looked up to sigh,
 With a smile on her lips, and a tear in her eye.
 He took her soft hand, ere her mother could bar,—
 "Now tread we a measure," said young Lochinvar. 30

So stately his form, and so lovely her face,
 That never a hall such a galliard¹ did grace;
 While her mother did fret, and her father did fume,
 And the bridegroom stood dangling his bonnet and plume;

¹ lively dance.

And the bridemaids whispered, "'Twere
better by far ³⁵
To have matched our fair cousin with
young Lochinvar."

One touch to her hand, and one word in
her ear,
When they reached the hall-door, and the
charger stood near;
So light to the croupe the fair lady he
swung,
So light to the saddle before her he sprung;
"She is won! we are gone! over bank, bush,
and scour;¹ ⁴¹
They'll have fleet steeds that follow,"
quoth young Lochinvar.

There was mounting 'mong Græmes of the
Netherby clan;
Forsters, Fenwicks, and Musgraves, they
rode and they ran:
There was racing and chasing on Can-
nobie Lee, ⁴⁵
But the lost bride of Netherby ne'er did
they see.
So daring in love, and so dauntless in
war,
Have ye e'er heard of gallant like young
Lochinvar?

From THE LADY OF THE LAKE

SOLDIER, REST!

Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sléep that knows not breaking;
Dream of battled fields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking.
In our isle's enchanted hall, ⁵
Hands unseen thy couch are strewing,
Fairy strains of music fall,
Every sense in slumber dewing.
Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more; ¹⁰
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.

No rude sound shall reach thine ear,
Armor's clang, or war-steed champing,
Trump nor pibroch summon here ¹⁵
Mustering clan or squadron tramping.

¹ cliff.

Yet the lark's shrill fife may come
At the daybreak from the fallow,
And the bittern sound his drum,
Booming from the sedgy shallow. ²⁰
Ruder sounds shall none be near,
Guards nor warders challenge here,
Here's no war-steed's neigh and champ-
ing,
Shouting clans or squadrons stamping.

Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done; ²⁵
While our slumbrous spells assail ye,
Dream not, with the rising sun,
Bugles here shall sound reveillé.
Sleep! the deer is in his den;
Sleep! thy hounds are by thee lying: ³⁰
Sleep! nor dream in yonder glen
How thy gallant steed lay dying.
Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done;
Think not of the rising sun,
For at dawning to assail ye ³⁵
Here no bugles sound reveillé.

BOAT SONG

Hail to the Chief who in triumph ad-
vances!
Honored and blessed be the ever-green
Pine!
Long may the tree, in his banner that
glances,
Flourish, the shelter and grace of our
line!
Heaven send it happy dew, ⁵
Earth lend it sap anew,
Gayly to burgeon, and broadly to grow,
While every Highland glen
Sends back our shout again,
Roderigh Vich Alpine dhu, ho! ieroe! ¹⁰
Ours is no sapling, chance-sown by the
fountain,
Blooming at Beltane, in winter to fade;
When the whirlwind has stripped every
leaf on the mountain,
The more shall Clan-Alpine exult in her
shade.
Moored in the rifted rock, ¹⁵
Proof to the tempest's shock,
Firmer he roots him the ruder it blow;
Menteith and Breadalbane, then,
Echo his praise again,
Roderigh Vich Alpine dhu, ho! ieroe! ²⁰

Proudly our pibroch has thrilled in Glen
 Fruin,
 And Bannochar's groans to our slogan
 replied;
 Glen Luss and Ross-dhu, they are smoking
 in ruin,
 And the best of Loch Lomond lie dead
 on her side.
 Widow and Saxon maid 25
 Long shall lament our raid,
 Think of Clan-Alpine with fear and with
 woe;
 Lennox and Leven-glen
 Shake when they hear again,
 Roderigh Vich Alpine dhu, ho! ieroe! 30

Row, vassals, row, for the pride of the
 Highlands!
 Stretch to your oars for the ever-green
 Pine!
 O! that the rose-bud that graces yon is-
 lands
 Were wreathed in a garland around him
 to twine!
 O that some seedling gem, 35
 Worthy such noble stem,
 Honored and blessed in their shadow
 might grow!
 Loud should Clan-Alpine then
 Ring from her deepmost glen,
 Roderigh Vich Alpine dhu, ho! ieroe! 40

CORONACH

He is gone on the mountain,
 He is lost to the forest,
 Like a summer-dried fountain,
 When our need was the sorest.
 The font, reappearing, 5
 From the rain-drops shall borrow,
 But to us comes no cheering,
 To Duncan no morrow!

The hand of the reaper
 Takes the ears that are hoary, 10
 But the voice of the weeper
 Wails manhood in glory.
 The autumn winds rushing
 Waft the leaves that are searest,
 But our flower was in flushing, 15
 When blighting was nearest.

Fleet foot on the correi,
 Sage counsel in cumber,
 Red hand in the foray,
 How sound is thy slumber! 20
 Like the dew on the mountain,
 Like the foam on the river,
 Like the bubble on the fountain,
 Thou art gone, and for ever!

HARP OF THE NORTH

Harp of the North, farewell! The hills
 grow dark,
 On purple peaks a deeper shade descend-
 ing;
 In twilight copse the glow-worm lights her
 spark,
 The deer, half-seen, are to the covert
 wending.
 Resume thy wizard elm! the fountain
 lending, 5
 And the wild breeze, thy wilder min-
 strely;
 Thy numbers sweet with nature's vespers
 blending,
 With distant echo from the fold and lea,
 And herd-boy's evening pipe, and hum of
 housing bee.

Yet once again farewell, thou Minstrel
 harp! 10
 Yet once again forgive my feeble sway,
 And little reck I of the censure sharp
 May idly cavil at an idle lay.
 Much have I owed thy strains on life's
 long way,
 Through secret woes the world has
 never known, 15
 When on the weary night dawned wearier
 day,
 And bitterer was the grief devoured
 alone.
 That I o'erlive such woes, Enchantress!
 is thine own.

Hark! as my lingering footsteps slow re-
 tire,
 Some Spirit of the Air has waked thy
 string! 20
 'Tis now a seraph bold, with touch of fire,
 'Tis now the brush of Fairy's frolic
 wing.

Receding now, the dying numbers ring
 Fainter and fainter down the rugged
 dell,
 And now the mountain breezes scarcely
 bring 25
 A wandering witch-note of the distant
 spell—
 And now, 'tis silent all!—Enchantress,
 fare thee well!

JOCK OF HAZELDEAN

"Why weep ye by the tide, ladie?
 Why weep ye by the tide?
 I'll wed ye to my youngest son,
 And ye sall be his bride;
 And ye sall be his bride, ladie, 5
 Sae comely to be seen"—
 But aye she loot the tears down fa'
 For Jock of Hazeldean.

"Now let this wilfu' grief be done,
 And dry that cheek so pale; 10
 Young Frank is chief of Errington,
 And lord of Langley-dale;
 His step is first in peaceful ha',
 His sword in battle keen"—
 But aye she loot the tears down fa' 15
 For Jock of Hazeldean.

"A chain of gold ye sall not lack,
 Nor braid to bind your hair;
 Nor mettled hound, nor managed hawk,
 Nor palfrey fresh and fair; 20
 And you, the foremost o' them a',
 Shall ride our forest queen"—
 But aye she loot the tears down fa'
 For Jock of Hazeldean.

The kirk was decked at morning-tide, 25
 The tapers glimmered fair;
 The priest and bridegroom wait the bride,
 And dame and knight are there.
 They sought her baith by bower and ha';
 The lady was not seen! 30
 She's o'er the Border, and awa'
 Wi' Jock of Hazeldean.

BRIGNALL BANKS

Oh, Brignall banks are wild and fair,
 And Greta woods are green,
 And you may gather garlands there
 Would grace a summer queen.

And as I rode by Dalton Hall, 5
 Beneath the turrets high,
 A maiden on the castle wall
 Was singing merrily:—
 "Oh, Brignall banks are fresh and fair,
 And Greta woods are green; 10
 I'd rather rove with Edmund there,
 Than reign our English queen."—

"If, maiden, thou wouldst wend with me,
 To leave both tower and town,
 Thou first must guess what life lead we 15
 That dwell by dale and down.
 And if thou canst that riddle read,
 As read full well you may,
 Then to the greenwood shalt thou speed,
 As blithe as Queen of May."— 20
 Yet sung she: "Brignall banks are fair,
 And Greta woods are green;
 I'd rather rove with Edmund there,
 Than reign our English queen.

"I read you by your bugle-horn, 25
 And by your palfrey good,
 I read you for a ranger sworn
 To keep the King's greenwood."—
 "A ranger, lady, winds his horn,
 And 'tis at peep of light: 30
 His blast is heard at merry morn,
 And mine at dead of night."—
 Yet sung she: "Brignall banks are fair,
 And Greta woods are gay;
 I would I were with Edmund there, 35
 To reign his Queen of May.

"With burnished brand and musketoon
 So gallantly you come,
 I read you for a bold dragoon
 That lists the tuck of drum."— 40
 "I list no more the tuck of drum,
 No more the trumpet hear,
 But when the beetle sounds his hum,
 My comrades take the spear.
 And oh, though Brignall banks be fair, 45
 And Greta woods be gay,
 Yet mickle must the maiden dare
 Would reign my Queen of May!

"Maiden, a nameless life I lead,
 A nameless death I'll die: 50
 The fiend, whose lantern lights the mead,
 Were better mate than I!
 And when I'm with my comrades met,
 Beneath the greenwood bough,

What once we were we all forget, 55
 Nor think what we are now.
 Yet Brignall banks are fresh and fair,
 And Greta woods are green,
 And you may gather garlands there,
 Would grace a summer queen." 60

COUNTY GUY

Ah! County Guy, the hour is nigh,
 The sun has left the lea,
 The orange flower perfumes the bower,
 The breeze is on the sea.
 The lark, his lay who thrilled all day, 5
 Sits hushed his partner nigh:
 Breeze, bird, and flower confess the hour,
 But where is County Guy?

The village maid steals through the shade
 Her shepherd's suit to hear; 10
 To beauty shy by lattice high,
 Sings high-born Cavalier.
 The star of Love, all stars above,
 Now reigns o'er earth and sky;
 And high and low the influence know— 15
 But where is County Guy?

BONNY DUNDEE

To the Lords of Convention 't was
 Claver'se who spoke,
 "Ere the King's crown shall fall there are
 crowns to be broke;
 So let each Cavalier who loves honor and
 me,
 Come follow the bonnet of Bonny Dundee.
 Come fill up my cup, come fill up my
 can, 5
 Come saddle your horses and call up
 your men;
 Come open the West Port and let me
 gang free,
 And it's room for the bonnets of
 Bonny Dundee!"

Dundee he is mounted, he rides up the
 street,
 The bells are rung backward, the drums
 they are beat; 10
 But the provost, douce¹ man, said, "Just
 e'en let him be,
 The Gude Town is weel quit of that Deil
 of Dundee."
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

¹ sedate.

As he rode down the sanctified bends of
 the Bow,
 Ilk carline was flyting and shaking her
 pow;
 But the young plants of grace they looked
 couthie and slee, 15
 Thinking, luck to thy bonnet, thou
 Bonny Dundee!
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

With sour-featured Whigs the Grass-
 market was crammed
 As if half the West had set tryst to be
 hanged;
 There was spite in each look, there was
 fear in each e'e,
 As they watched for the bonnets of Bonny
 Dundee. 20
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

These cowls of Kilmarnock had spits and
 had spears,
 And lang-hafted gullies to kill Cavaliers;
 But they shrunk to close-heads and the
 causeway was free,
 At the toss of the bonnet of Bonny Dun-
 dee.
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

He spurred to the foot of the proud Castle
 rock, 25
 And with the gay Gordon he gallantly
 spoke;
 "Let Mons Meg and her marrows² speak
 twa words or three,
 For the love of the bonnet of Bonny
 Dundee."
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

The Gordon demands of him which way
 he goes—
 "Where'er shall direct me the shade of
 Montrose! 30
 Your Grace in short space shall hear
 tidings of me,
 Or that low lies the bonnet of Bonny
 Dundee.
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

"There are hills beyond Pentland and
 lands beyond Forth,
 If there's lords in the Lowlands, there's
 chiefs in the North;

² companions.

There are wild Duniewassals three thou-
 sand times three, 35
 Will cry *hoigh!* for the bonnet of Bonny
 Dundee.
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

"There's brass on the target of barked¹
 bull-hide;
 There's steel in the scabbard that dangles
 beside;
 The brass shall be burnished, the steel
 shall flash free,
 At a toss of the bonnet of Bonny Dun-
 dee.
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

"Away to the hills, to the caves, to the
 rocks— 41
 Ere I own an usurper, I'll couch with the
 fox;
 And tremble, false Whigs, in the midst of
 your glee,
 You have not seen the last of my bonnet
 and me!"
 Come fill up my cup, etc.

He waved his proud hand and the trump-
 ets were blown, 45
 The kettle-drums clashed and the horse-
 men rode on,
 Till on Ravelston's cliffs and on Cler-
 miston's lea
 Died away the wild war-notes of Bonny
 Dundee.
 Come fill up my cup, come fill up my
 can,
 Come saddle the horses and call up
 the men, 50
 Come open your gates and let me gae
 free,
 For it's up with the bonnets of Bonny
 Dundee!

GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON
 (1788-1824)

WHEN WE TWO PARTED

When we two parted
 In silence and tears,
 Half broken-hearted
 To sever for years,

¹ tanned.

Pale grew thy cheek and cold,
 Colder thy kiss;
 Truly that hour foretold
 Sorrow to this.

The dew of the morning
 Sunk chill on my brow— 10
 It felt like the warning
 Of what I feel now.
 Thy vows are all broken,
 And light is thy fame:
 I hear thy name spoken, 15
 And share in its shame.

They name thee before me,
 A knell to mine ear;
 A shudder comes o'er me—
 Why wert thou so dear? 20
 They know not I knew thee,
 Who knew thee too well:—
 Long, long shall I rue thee,
 Too deeply to tell.

In secret we met— 25
 In silence I grieve,
 That thy heart could forget,
 Thy spirit deceive.
 If I should meet thee
 After long years, 30
 How should I greet thee?—
 With silence and tears.

KNOW YE THE LAND?

Know ye the land where the cypress and
 myrtle
 Are emblems of deeds that are done in
 their clime?
 Where the rage of the vulture, the love of
 the turtle,
 Now melt into sorrow, now madden to
 crime?
 Know ye the land of the cedar and vine, 5
 Where the flowers ever blossom, the beams
 ever shine;
 Where the light wings of Zephyr, oppressed
 with perfume,
 Wax faint o'er the gardens of Gál in her
 bloom;
 Where the citron and olive are fairest of
 fruit,
 And the voice of the nightingale never is
 mute; 10

Where the tints of the earth, and the hues
 of the sky,
 In color though varied, in beauty may vie,
 And the purple of ocean is deepest in dye;
 Where the virgins are soft as the roses they
 twine,
 And all, save the spirit of man, is divine? 15
 'Tis the clime of the East; 'tis the land of
 the Sun—
 Can he smile on such deeds as his children
 have done?
 Oh! wild as the accents of lovers' farewell
 Are the hearts which they bear, and the
 tales which they tell.

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

She walks in beauty, like the night
 Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
 And all that's best of dark and bright
 Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
 Thus mellowed to that tender light 5
 Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
 Had half impaired the nameless grace
 Which waves in every raven tress,
 Or softly lightens o'er her face; 10
 Where thoughts serenely sweet express
 How pure, how dear, their dwelling-
 place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
 So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
 The smiles that win, the tints that glow, 15
 But tell of days in goodness spent,
 A mind at peace with all below,
 A heart whose love is innocent!

THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on
 the fold,
 And his cohorts were gleaming in purple
 and gold;
 And the sheen of their spears was like
 stars on the sea,
 When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep
 Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Sum-
 mer is green, 5
 That host with their banners at sunset
 were seen:

Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn
 hath blown,
 That host on the morrow lay withered
 and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings
 on the blast,
 And breathed in the face of the foe as he
 passed; 10
 And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly
 and chill,
 And their hearts but once heaved, and
 for ever grew still!

And there lay the steed with his nostril all
 wide,
 But through it there rolled not the breath
 of his pride;
 And the foam of his gasping lay white on
 the turf, 15
 And cold as the spray of the rock-beating
 surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
 With the dew on his brow, and the rust on
 his mail:
 And the tents were all silent, the banners
 alone,
 The lances unlifted, the trumpet un-
 blown. 20

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their
 wail,
 And the idols are broke in the temple of
 Baal;
 And the might of the Gentile, unsmeared by
 the sword,
 Hath melted like snow in the glance of the
 Lord!

STANZAS FOR MUSIC

There be none of Beauty's daughters
 With a magic like thee;
 And like music on the waters
 Is thy sweet voice to me:
 When, as if its sound were causing 5
 The charmed ocean's pausing,
 The waves lie still and gleaming,
 And the lulled winds seem dreaming.

And the midnight moon is weaving
 Her bright chain o'er the deep; 10
 Whose breast is gently heaving,
 As an infant's asleep:
 So the spirit bows before thee,
 To listen and adore thee;
 With a full but soft emotion, 15
 Like the swell of Summer's ocean.

SO, WE'LL GO NO MORE A-ROVING

So, we'll go no more a-roving
 So late into the night,
 Though the heart be still as loving,
 And the moon be still as bright.
 For the sword outwears its sheath, 5
 And the soul wears out the breast,
 And the heart must pause to breathe,
 And love itself have rest.
 Though the night was made for loving,
 And the day returns too soon, 10
 Yet we'll go no more a-roving
 By the light of the moon.

MY BOAT IS ON THE SHORE

My boat is on the shore,
 And my bark is on the sea;
 But, before I go, Tom Moore,
 Here's a double health to thee!
 Here's a sigh to those who love me, 5
 And a smile to those who hate;
 And, whatever sky's above me,
 Here's a heart for every fate.
 Though the ocean roar around me,
 Yet it still shall bear me on; 10
 Though a desert should surround me,
 It hath springs that may be won.
 Were't the last drop in the well,
 As I gasped upon the brink,
 Ere my fainting spirit fell, 15
 'Tis to thee that I would drink.
 With that water, as this wine,
 The libation I would pour
 Should be—peace with thine and mine,
 And a health to thee, Tom Moore. 20

SONNET ON CHILLON

Eternal Spirit of the chainless Mind!
 Brightest in dungeons, Liberty! thou art,
 For there thy habitation is the heart—
 The heart which love of thee alone can
 bind;
 And when thy sons to fetters are con-
 signed— 5
 To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless
 gloom,
 Their country conquers with their martyr-
 dom,
 And Freedom's fame finds wings on every
 wind.
 Chillon! thy prison is a holy place,
 And thy sad steps an altar—for 't was
 trod, 10
 Until his very steps have left a trace
 Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod,
 By Bonnivard! May none those marks
 efface!
 For they appeal from tyranny to God.

THE PRISONER OF CHILLON

My hair is gray, but not with years;
 Nor grew it white
 In a single night,
 As men's have grown from sudden fears:
 My limbs are bowed, though not with
 toil,
 But rusted with a vile repose, 6
 For they have been a dungeon's spoil,
 And mine has been the fate of those
 To whom the goodly earth and air
 Are banned, and barred—forbidden fare; 10
 But this was for my father's faith
 I suffered chains and courted death:
 That father perished at the stake
 For tenets he would not forsake;
 And for the same his lineal race 15
 In darkness found a dwelling-place.
 We were seven—who now are one;
 Six in youth, and one in age,
 Finished as they had begun,
 Proud of Persecution's rage; 20
 One in fire, and two in field,
 Their belief with blood have sealed
 Dying as their father died,
 For the God their foes denied;—
 Three were in a dungeon cast, 25
 Of whom this wreck is left the last.

There are seven pillars of Gothic mould,
 In Chillon's dungeons deep and old;
 There are seven columns, massy and gray,
 Dim with a dull imprisoned ray, 30
 A sunbeam which hath lost its way,
 And through the crevice and the cleft
 Of the thick wall is fallen and left:
 Creeping o'er the floor so damp,
 Like a marsh's meteor lamp: 35
 And in each pillar there is a ring,
 And in each ring there is a chain;
 That iron is a cankering thing,
 For in these limbs its teeth remain,
 With marks that will not wear away, 40
 Till I have done with this new day,
 Which now is painful to these eyes,
 Which have not seen the sun so rise
 For years—I cannot count them o'er;
 I lost their long and heavy score 45
 When my last brother drooped and died,
 And I lay living by his side.

They chained us each to a column stone,
 And we were three—yet each alone;
 We could not move a single pace, 50
 We could not see each other's face,
 But with that pale and livid light
 That made us strangers in our sight:
 And thus together—yet apart,
 Fettered in hand, but joined in heart, 55
 'Twas still some solace in the dearth
 Of the pure elements of earth,
 To hearken to each other's speech,
 And each turn comforter to each,
 With some new hope, or legend old, 60
 Or song heroically bold;
 But even these at length grew cold.
 Our voices took a dreary tone,
 An echo of the dungeon-stone,
 A grating sound—not full and free 65
 As they of yore were wont to be:
 It might be fancy—but to me
 They never sounded like our own.

I was the eldest of the three;
 And to uphold and cheer the rest 70
 I ought to do—and did—my best,
 And each did well in his degree.
 The youngest, whom my father loved,
 Because our mother's brow was given
 To him—with eyes as blue as heaven,— 75
 For him my soul was sorely moved.
 And truly might it be distressed
 To see such bird in such a nest;

For he was beautiful as day—
 (When day was beautiful to me 80
 As to young eagles, being free)—
 A polar day, which will not see
 A sunset till its summer's gone,
 Its sleepless summer of long light,
 The snow-clad offspring of the sun: 85
 And thus he was as pure and bright,
 And in his natural spirit gay,
 With tears for naught but others' ills,
 And then they flowed like mountain rills,
 Unless he could assuage the woe 90
 Which he abhorred to view below.

The other was as pure of mind,
 But formed to combat with his kind;
 Strong in his frame, and of a mood
 Which 'gainst the world in war had stood,
 And perished in the foremost rank 96
 With joy—but not in chains to pine:
 His spirit withered with their clank,
 I saw it silently decline—
 And so perchance in sooth did mine; 100
 But yet I forced it on to cheer
 Those relics of a home so dear.
 He was a hunter of the hills,
 Had followed there the deer and wolf;
 To him this dungeon was a gulf, 105
 And fettered feet the worst of ills.

Lake Leman lies by Chillon's walls:
 A thousand feet in depth below
 Its massy waters meet and flow;
 Thus much the fathom line was sent 110
 From Chillon's snow-white battlement,
 Which round about the wave enthralls:
 A double dungeon wall and wave
 Have made—and like a living grave.
 Below the surface of the lake 115
 The dark vault lies wherein we lay;
 We heard it ripple night and day;
 Sounding o'er our heads it knocked;
 And I have felt the winter's spray
 Wash through the bars when winds were
 high 120
 And wanton in the happy sky;
 And then the very rock hath rocked,
 And I have felt it shake, unshocked,
 Because I could have smiled to see
 The death that would have set me free. 125
 I said my nearer brother pined,
 I said his mighty heart declined,
 He loathed and put away his food:
 It was not that 'twas coarse and rude

For we were used to hunters' fare, 130
 And for the like had little care:
 The milk drawn from the mountain goat
 Was changed for water from the moat;
 Our bread was such as captives' tears
 Have moistened many a thousand years,
 Since man first pent his fellow-men 136
 Like brutes within an iron den;
 But what were these to us or him?
 These wasted not his heart or limb;
 My brother's soul was of that mould 140
 Which in a palace had grown cold,
 Had his free-breathing been denied
 The range of the steep mountain's side.
 But why delay the truth?—he died.
 I saw, and could not hold his head, 145
 Nor reach his dying hand—nor dead—
 Though hard I strove, but strove in
 vain,

To rend and gnash my bonds in twain.
 He died—and they unlocked his chain
 And scooped for him a shallow grave 150
 Even from the cold earth of our cave.
 I begged them, as a boon, to lay
 His corse in dust whereon the day
 Might shine—it was a foolish thought,
 But then within my brain it wrought, 155
 That even in death his free-born breast
 In such a dungeon could not rest.
 I might have spared my idle prayer—
 They coldly laughed—and laid him there:
 The flat and turfless earth above 160
 The being we so much did love;
 His empty chain above it leant,
 Such murder's fitting monument!

But he, the favorite and the flower,
 Most cherished since his natal hour, 165
 His mother's image in fair face,
 The infant love of all his race,
 His martyred father's dearest thought,
 My latest care, for whom I sought
 To hoard my life, that his might be 170
 Less wretched now, and one day free;
 He, too, who yet had held untired
 A spirit natural or inspired—
 He, too, was struck, and day by day
 Was withered on the stalk away. 175
 O God! it is a fearful thing
 To see the human soul take wing
 In any shape, in any mood:—
 I've seen it rushing forth in blood,
 I've seen it on the breaking ocean 180
 Strive with a swollen convulsive motion,

I've seen the sick and ghastly bed
 Of Sin delirious with its dread:
 But these were horrors—this was woe
 Unmixed with such,—but sure and slow:
 He faded, and so calm and meek, 186
 So softly worn, so sweetly weak,
 So tearless, yet so tender,—kind,
 And grieved for those he left behind;
 With all the while a cheek whose bloom
 Was as a mockery of the tomb, 191
 Whose tints as gently sunk away
 As a departing rainbow's ray—
 An eye of most transparent light,
 That almost made the dungeon bright, 195
 And not a word of murmur—not
 A groan o'er his untimely lot!
 A little talk of better days,
 A little hope my own to raise,
 For I was sunk in silence—lost 200
 In this last loss, of all the most:
 And then the sighs he would suppress
 Of fainting nature's feebleness,
 More slowly drawn, grew less and less.
 I listened, but I could not hear— 205
 I called, for I was wild with fear;
 I knew 'twas hopeless, but my dread
 Would not be thus admonishèd;
 I called, and thought I heard a sound—
 I burst my chain with one strong bound,
 And rushed to him;—I found him not; 211
 I only stirred in this black spot,
 I only lived—I only drew
 The accursed breath of dungeon-dew;
 The last,—the sole,—the dearest link 215
 Between me and the eternal brink
 Which bound me to my failing race,
 Was broken in this fatal place.
 One on the earth, and one beneath—
 My brothers—both had ceased to breathe:
 I took that hand which lay so still; 221
 Alas, my own was full as chill;
 I had not strength to stir or strive,
 But felt that I was still alive—
 A frantic feeling, when we know 225
 That what we love shall ne'er be so.
 I know not why
 I could not die;
 I had no earthly hope—but faith,
 And that forbade a selfish death. 230

What next befell me then and there
 I know not well—I never knew:—
 First came the loss of light, and air,
 And then of darkness too:

I had no thought, no feeling—none— 235
 Among the stones I stood a stone,
 And was, scarce conscious what I wist,
 As shrubless crags within the mist;
 For all was blank, and bleak, and gray,
 It was not night—it was not day; 240
 It was not even the dungeon-light,
 So hateful to my heavy sight,
 But vacancy absorbing space,
 And fixedness, without a place:
 There were no stars,—no earth,—no
 time,— 245
 No check,—no change,—no good,—no
 crime,—
 But silence, and a stirless breath
 Which neither was of life nor death;
 A sea of stagnant idleness,
 Blind, boundless, mute, and motionless! 250

A light broke in upon my brain—
 It was the carol of a bird;
 It ceased, and then it came again,
 The sweetest song ear ever heard;
 And mine was thankful, till my eyes 255
 Ran over with the glad surprise,
 And they that moment could not see
 I was the mate of misery;
 But then by dull degrees came back
 My senses to their wonted track, 260
 I saw the dungeon walls and floor
 Close slowly round me as before,
 I saw the glimmer of the sun
 Creeping as it before had done,
 But through the crevice where it came 265
 That bird was perched, as fond and tame,
 And tamer than upon the tree;
 A lovely bird, with azure wings,
 And song that said a thousand things,
 And seemed to say them all for me! 270

I never saw its like before,
 I ne'er shall see its likeness more:
 It seemed, like me, to want a mate,
 But was not half so desolate,
 And it was come to love me when 275
 None lived to love me so again,
 And cheering from my dungeon's brink,
 Had brought me back to feel and think.
 I know not if it late were free,
 Or broke its cage to perch on mine, 280
 But knowing well captivity,
 Sweet bird, I could not wish for thine!
 Or if it were, in wingèd guise,
 A visitant from Paradise;

For—Heaven forgive that thought! the
 while 285
 Which made me both to weep and smile;
 I sometimes deemed that it might be
 My brother's soul come down to me;
 But then at last away it flew,
 And then 'twas mortal—well I knew, 290
 For he would never thus have flown,
 And left me twice so doubly lone—
 Lone,—as the corse within its shroud;
 Lone,—as a solitary cloud,
 A single cloud on a sunny day, 295
 While all the rest of heaven is clear,
 A frown upon the atmosphere,
 That hath no business to appear
 When skies are blue and earth is gay.

A kind of change came in my fate, 300
 My keepers grew compassionate:
 I know not what had made them so,
 They were inured to sights of woe;
 But so it was—my broken chain
 With links unfastened did remain, 305
 And it was liberty to stride
 Along my cell from side to side,
 And up and down, and then athwart,
 And tread it over every part;
 And round the pillars one by one, 310
 Returning where my walk begun,
 Avoiding only, as I trod,
 My brothers' graves without a sod;
 For if I thought with heedless tread
 My step profaned their lowly bed, 315
 My breath came gaspingly and thick,
 And my crushed heart fell blind and sick.

I made a footing in the wall,
 It was not therefrom to escape,
 For I had buried one and all 320
 Who loved me in a human shape;
 And the whole earth would henceforth be
 A wider prison unto me:
 No child—no sire—no kin had I,
 No partner in my misery; 325
 I thought of this, and I was glad,
 For thought of them had made me mad;
 But I was curious to ascend
 To my barred windows, and to bend
 Once more, upon the mountains high, 330
 The quiet of a loving eye.
 I saw them—and they were the same,
 They were not changed like me in frame;
 I saw their thousand years of snow
 On high—their wide long lake below, 335
 And the blue Rhone in fullest flow;

I heard the torrents leap and gush
 O'er channeled rock and broken bush;
 I saw the white-walled distant town,
 And whiter sails go skimming down; 340
 And then there was a little isle,
 Which in my very face did smile,

The only one in view:

A small green isle, it seemed no more,
 Scarce broader than my dungeon floor; 345
 But in it there were three tall trees,
 And o'er it blew the mountain breeze,
 And by it there were waters flowing,
 And on it there were young flowers grow-
 ing,

Of gentle breath and hue. 350

The fish swam by the castle wall,
 And they seemed joyous, each and all;
 The eagle rode the rising blast,
 Methought he never flew so fast
 As then to me he seemed to fly, 355
 And then new tears came in my eye,
 And I felt troubled—and would fain
 I had not left my recent chain;
 And when I did descend again,
 The darkness of my dim abode 360
 Fell on me as a heavy load;
 It was as is a new-dug grave,
 Closing o'er one we sought to save.
 And yet my glance, too much oppressed,
 Had almost need of such a rest. 365

It might be months, or years, or days,

I kept no count—I took no note,
 I had no hope my eyes to raise,
 And clear them of their dreary mote;
 At last men came to set me free, 370
 I asked not why, and recked not where;

It was at length the same to me,
 Fettered or fetterless to be,

I learned to love despair.

And thus, when they appeared at last, 375
 And all my bonds aside were cast,
 These heavy walls to me had grown
 A hermitage—and all my own!

And half I felt as they were come
 To tear me from a second home: 380
 With spiders I had friendship made,
 And watched them in their sullen trade,
 Had seen the mice by moonlight play,
 And why should I feel less than they?

We were all inmates of one place, 385
 And I, the monarch of each race,
 Had power to kill—yet, strange to tell!
 In quiet we had learned to dwell—

My very chains and I grew friends,
 So much a long communion tends 390
 To make us what we are:—even I
 Regained my freedom with a sigh.

CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE

From CANTO III

WATERLOO

There was a sound of revelry by night,
 And Belgium's capital had gathered 182
 then
 Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and
 bright
 The lamps shone o'er fair women and
 brave men;
 A thousand hearts beat happily; and
 when 185
 Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
 Soft eyes looked love to eyes which
 spake again,
 And all went merry as a marriage bell;
 But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like
 a rising knell!

Did ye not hear it?—No; 'twas but the
 wind, 190

Or the car rattling o'er the stony street;
 On with the dance! let joy be uncon-
 fined;

No sleep till morn, when Youth and
 Pleasure meet

To chase the glowing Hours with flying
 feet.—

But hark! that heavy sound breaks in
 once more, 195

As if the clouds its echo would repeat;
 And nearer, clearer, deadlier than be-
 fore!

Arm! arm! it is!—it is!—the cannon's open-
 ing roar!

Within a windowed niche of that high
 hall

Sate Brunswick's fated chieftain; he did
 hear 200

That sound the first amidst the festival,
 And caught its tone with Death's pro-
 phetic ear,

And when they smiled because he
 deemed it near,

His heart more truly knew that peal
too well
Which stretched his father on a bloody
bier, 205
And roused the vengeance blood alone
could quell.
He rushed into the field, and, foremost
fighting, fell.

Ah! then and there was hurrying to and
fro,
And gathering tears, and tremblings of
distress,
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour
ago 210
Blushed at the praise of their own love-
liness;
And there were sudden partings, such
as press
The life from out young hearts, and
choking sighs
Which ne'er might be repeated: who
could guess
If ever more should meet those mutual
eyes, 215
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn
could rise!

And there was mounting in hot haste:
the steed,
The mustering squadron, and the clat-
tering car,
Went pouring forward with impetuous
speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of
war; 220
And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;
And near, the beat of the alarming drum
Roused up the soldier ere the morning
star;
While thronged the citizens with terror
dumb,
Or whispering with white lips—"The foe!
They come! they come!" 225

And wild and high the "Cameron's
Gathering" rose,
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's
hills
Have heard, and heard, too, have her
Saxon foes;
How in the noon of night that pibroch
thrills
Savage and shrill! But with the breath
which fills 230

Their mountain pipe, so fill the moun-
taineers
With the fierce native daring which
instils
The stirring memory of a thousand
years,
And Evan's, Donald's fame rings in each
clansman's ears!

And Ardennes waves above them her
green leaves, 235
Dewy with Nature's tear-drops, as they
pass,
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave,—alas!
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass
Which now beneath them, but above
shall grow 240
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass
Of living valor, rolling on the foe,
And burning with high hope, shall moulder
cold and low.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly
gay,
The midnight brought the signal-sound
of strife, 246
The morn the marshalling in arms—
the day
Battle's magnificently stern array!
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which
when rent
The earth is covered thick with other
clay, 250
Which her own clay shall cover, heaped
and pent,
Rider and horse—friend, foe,—in one red
burial blent!

LAKE LEMAN

Lake Lemman woos me with its crystal
face,
The mirror where the stars and moun-
tains view 645
The stillness of their aspect in each
trace
Its clear depth yields of their far height
and hue;
There is too much of man here, to look
through
With a fit mind the might which I be-
hold;

But soon in me shall loneliness renew 650
Thoughts hid, but not less cherished
than of old,
Ere mingling with the herd had penned me
in their fold.

To fly from, need not be to hate, man-
kind;
All are not fit with them to stir and toil,
Nor is it discontent to keep the mind 655
Deep in its fountain, lest it overboil
In the hot throng, where we become the
spoil
Of our infection, till too late and long
We may deplore and struggle with the
coil,
In wretched interchange of wrong for
wrong 660
'Midst a contentious world, striving
where none are strong.

There, in a moment, we may plunge our
years
In fatal penitence, and in the blight
Of our own soul turn all our blood to
tears,
And color things to come with hues of
night: 665
The race of life becomes a hopeless
flight
To those that walk in darkness; on the
sea
The boldest steer but where their ports
invite,
But there are wanderers o'er Eternity
Whose bark drives on and on, and an-
chored ne'er shall be. 670

Is it not better, then, to be alone,
And love Earth only for its earthly sake?
By the blue rushing of the arrowy
Rhône,
Or the pure bosom of its nursing lake,
Which feeds it as a mother who doth
make 675
A fair but froward infant her own care,
Kissing its cries away as these awake;—
Is it not better thus our lives to wear,
Than join the crushing crowd, doomed to
inflict or bear?

I live not in myself, but I become 680
Portion of that around me; and to me,
High mountains are a feeling, but the
hum
Of human cities torture; I can see

Nothing to loathe in Nature, save to be
A link reluctant in a fleshly chain, 685
Classed among creatures, when the soul
can flee,
And with the sky, the peak, the heav-
ing plain
Of ocean, or the stars, mingle, and not in
vain.

And thus I am absorbed, and this is
life:
I look upon the peopled desert past, 690
As on a place of agony and strife,
Where, for some sin, to sorrow I was
cast,
To act and suffer, but remount at last
With a fresh pinion; which I feel to
spring,
Though young, yet waxing vigorous as
the blast 695
Which it would cope with, on delighted
wing,
Spurning the clay-cold bonds which round
our being cling.

And when, at length, the mind shall be
all free
From what it hates in this degraded
form,
Reft of its carnal life, save what shall
be 700
Existent happier in the fly and worm,—
When elements to elements conform,
And dust is as it should be, shall I
not
Feel all I see, less dazzling, but more
warm?
The bodiless thought? the Spirit of each
spot? 705
Of which, even now, I share at times the
immortal lot?

Are not the mountains, waves, and
skies, a part
Of me and of my soul, as I of them?
Is not the love of these deep in my
heart
With a pure passion? should I not con-
temn 710
All objects, if compared with these? and
stem
A tide of suffering rather than forego
Such feelings for the hard and worldly
phlegm

Of those whose eyes are only turned
below,
Gazing upon the ground, with thoughts
which dare not glow? 715

* * * * *

Clear, placid Leman! thy contrasted
lake, 797
With the wild world I dwelt in, is a
thing
Which warns me, with its stillness, to
forsake
Earth's troubled waters for a purer
spring. 800
This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing
To waft me from distraction; once I
loved
Torn ocean's roar, but thy soft mur-
muring
Sounds sweet as if a sister's voice re-
proved
That I with stern delights should e'er
have been so moved. 805

It is the hush of night, and all between
Thy margin and the mountains, dusk,
yet clear,
Mellowed and mingling, yet distinctly
seen,
Save darkened Jura, whose capped
heights appear
Precipitously steep; and drawing near,
There breathes a living fragrance from
the shore, 811
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood; on
the ear
Drops the light drip of the suspended
oar,
Or chirps the grasshopper one good-night
carol more.

He is an evening reveller, who makes 815
His life an infancy, and sings his fill;
At intervals, some bird from out the
brakes
Starts into voice a moment, then is still.
There seems a floating whisper on the
hill,
But that is fancy, for the starlight dews
All silently their tears of love instil, 821
Weeping themselves away, till they
infuse
Deep into Nature's breast the spirit of
her hues.

Ye stars! which are the poetry of heaven!
If in your bright leaves we would read
the fate 825
Of men and empires,—'tis to be for-
given,
That in our aspirations to be great,
Our destinies o'erleap their mortal
state,
And claim a kindred with you; for ye
are
A beauty and a mystery, and create 830
In us such love and reverence from
afar,
That fortune, fame, power, life, have
named themselves a star.

All heaven and earth are still—though
not in sleep,
But breathless, as we grow when feeling
most;
And silent, as we stand in thoughts too
deep:— 835
All heaven and earth are still: from the
high host
Of stars, to the lulled lake and moun-
tain-coast,
All is centered in a life intense,
Where not a beam, nor air, nor leaf is
lost,
But hath a part of being, and a sense 840
Of that which is of all Creator and De-
fence.

Then stirs the feeling infinite, so felt
In solitude, where we are *least* alone;
A truth which through our being then
doth melt,
And purifies from self: it is a tone, 845
The soul and source of music, which
makes known
Eternal harmony, and sheds a charm,
Like to the fabled Cytherea's zone,
Binding all things with beauty; 'twould
disarm
The spectre Death, had he substantial
power to harm. 850

Not vainly did the early Persian make
His altar the high places and the peak
Of earth-o'ergazing mountains, and
thus take
A fit and unvalled temple, there to seek
The Spirit, in whose honor shrines are
weak, 855

Upreared of human hands. Come, and
compare
Columns and idol dwellings, Goth or
Greek,
With Nature's realms of worship, earth
and air,
Nor fix on fond abodes to circumscribe
thy prayer!

The sky is changed!—and such a
change! O night, 860
And storm, and darkness, ye are won-
drous strong,
Yet lovely in your strength, as is the
light
Of a dark eye in woman! Far along,
From peak to peak, the rattling crags
among
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one
lone cloud, 865
But every mountain now hath found a
tongue,
And Jura answers, through her misty
shroud,
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her
aloud!

And this is in the night:—Most glorious
night! 869
Thou wert not sent for slumber! let me be
A sharer in thy fierce and far delight,—
A portion of the tempest and of thee!
How the lit lake shines, a phosphoric sea,
And the big rain comes dancing to the
earth!
And now again 'tis black,—and now,
the glee 875
Of the loud hills shakes with its moun-
tain-mirth,
As if they did rejoice o'er a young earth-
quake's birth.

From CANTO IV

VENICE

I stood in Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs;
A palace and a prison on each hand:
I saw from out the wave her structures
rise
As from the stroke of the enchanter's
wand:
A thousand years their cloudy wings ex-
pand 5

Around me, and a dying glory smiles
O'er the far times, when many a subject
land
Looked to the winged Lion's marble piles,
Where Venice sate in state, throned on
her hundred isles!

She looks a sea Cybele, fresh from ocean,
Rising with her tiara of proud towers 11
At airy distance, with majestic motion,
A ruler of the waters and their powers;
And such she was; her daughters had
their dowers
From spoils of nations, and the exhaust-
less East 15
Poured in her lap all gems in sparkling
showers.

In purple was she robed, and of her feast
Monarchs partook, and deemed their dig-
nity increased.

In Venice Tasso's echoes are no more,
And silent rows the songless gondolier;
Her palaces are crumbling to the shore,
And music meets not always now the ear:
Those days are gone—but Beauty still is
here. 23
States fall, arts fade—but Nature doth
not die,
Nor yet forget how Venice once was dear,
The pleasant place of all festivity, 26
The revel of the earth, the masque of
Italy!

ROME

O Rome! my country! city of the soul!
The orphans of the heart must turn to
thee, 695
Lone mother of dead empires! and control
In their shut breasts their petty misery.
What are our woes and sufferance?
Come and see
The cypress, hear the owl, and plod your
way
O'er steps of broken thrones and tem-
ples, Ye! 700
Whose agonies are evils of a day—
A world is at our feet as fragile as our clay.

The Niobe of nations! there she stands,
Childless and crownless, in her voiceless
woe; 704
An empty urn within her withered hands,
Whose holy dust was scattered long ago;

The Scipios' tomb contains no ashes now;
 The very sepulchres lie tenantless
 Of their heroic dwellers: dost thou flow,
 Old Tiber! through a marble wilderness?
 Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle
 her distress. 711

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War,
 Flood, and Fire,
 Have dealt upon the seven-hilled city's
 pride;
 She saw her glories star by star expire,
 And up the steep barbarian monarchs
 ride, 715
 Where the car¹ climbed the Capitol; far
 and wide
 Temple and tower went down, nor left
 a site:
 Chaos of ruins! who shall trace the void,
 O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,
 And say, "Here was, or is," where all is
 doubly night? 720

The double night of ages, and of her,
 Night's daughter, Ignorance, hath
 wrapped and wrap
 All round us; we but feel our way to err:
 The ocean hath his chart, the stars their
 map,
 And Knowledge spreads them on her
 ample lap; 725
 But Rome is as the desert, where we
 steer
 Stumbling o'er recollections; now we clap
 Our hands, and cry "Eureka! it is
 clear!"—
 When but some false mirage of ruin rises
 near.

Alas! the lofty city! and, alas, 730
 The trebly hundred triumphs; and the
 day
 When Brutus made the dagger's edge
 surpass
 The Conqueror's sword in bearing fame
 away!
 Alas, for Tully's voice, and Virgil's lay,
 And Livy's pictured page;—but these
 shall be 735
 Her resurrection; all beside—decay.
 Alas, for Earth, for never shall we see
 That brightness in her eye she bore when
 Rome was free!

¹ chariot.

THE COLISEUM

Arches on arches! as it were that Rome,
 Collecting the chief trophies of her line,
 Would build up all her triumphs in one
 dome, 1146
 Her Coliseum stands; the moonbeams
 shine
 As 't were its natural torches, for divine
 Should be the light which streams here,
 to illumine
 This long-explored but still exhaustless
 mine 1150
 Of contemplation; and the azure gloom
 Of an Italian night, where the deep skies
 assume

Hues which have words, and speak to ye
 of heaven,
 Floats o'er this vast and wondrous
 monument,
 And shadows forth its glory. There is
 given 1155
 Unto the things of earth, which Time
 hath bent,
 A spirit's feeling, and where he hath leant
 His hand, but broke his scythe, there is
 a power
 And magic in the ruined battlement,
 For which the palace of the present hour
 Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are
 its dower. 1161

* * * * *

And here the buzz of eager nations ran,
 In murmured pity, or loud-roared ap-
 plause,
 As man was slaughtered by his fellow man.
 And wherefore slaughtered? wherefore,
 but because 1246
 Such were the bloody Circus' genial laws,
 And the imperial pleasure.—Wherefore
 not?
 What matters where we fall to fill the
 maws
 Of worms—on battle-plains or listed spot?
 Both are but theaters where the chief
 actors rot. 1251

I see before me the Gladiator lie:
 He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
 Consents to death, but conquers agony,
 And his drooped head sinks gradually
 low— 1255

And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,
Like the first of a thunder-shower; and now

The arena swims around him—he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which
hailed the wretch who won. 1260

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes
Were with his heart, and that was far away;

He recked not of the life he lost nor prize,
But where his rude hut by the Danubelay,
There were his young barbarians all at play, 1265

There was their Dacian mother—he, their sire,

Butchered to make a Roman holiday—
All this rushed with his blood—Shall he expire

And unavenged? Arise! ye Goths, and glut your ire!

But here, where Murder breathed her bloody steam; 1270

And here, where buzzing nations choked the ways,

And roared or murmured like a mountain stream

Dashing or winding as its torrent strays;
Here, where the Roman millions' blame or praise

Was death or life, the playthings of a crowd, 1275

My voice sounds much—and fall the stars' faint rays

On the arena void—seats crushed—walls bowed—

And galleries, where my steps seem echoes strangely loud.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass
Walls, palaces, half-cities, have been reared; 1280

Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass,
And marvel where the spoil could have appeared.

Hath it indeed been plundered, or but cleared?

Alas! developed, opens the decay, 1284
When the colossal fabric's form is neared:

It will not bear the brightness of the day,
Which streams too much on all, years, man have reft away.

But when the rising moon begins to climb

Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there;

When the stars twinkle through the loops of time, 1290

And the low night-breeze waves along the air

The garland-forest which the gray walls wear,

Like laurels on the bald first Cæsar's head;
When the light shines serene but doth not glare,

Then in this magic circle raise the dead:
Heroes have trod this spot—'tis on their dust ye tread. 1296

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;

When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall,
And when Rome falls—the World."

From our own land

Thus spake the pilgrims o'er this mighty wall 1300

In Saxon times, which we are wont to call

Ancient; and these three mortal things are still

On their foundations, and unaltered all;
Rome and her Ruin past Redemption's skill,

The world, the same wide den—of thieves, or what ye will. 1305

NATURE

Oh that the desert were my dwelling place, 1385

With one fair spirit for my minister,
That I might all forget the human race,

And, hating no one, love but only her!
Ye Elements, in whose ennobling stir

I feel myself exalted, can ye not 1390
Accord me such a being? Do I err

In deeming such inhabit many a spot,
Though with them to converse can rarely be our lot?

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, 1394

There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,

By the deep sea, and music in its roar:

I love not Man the less, but Nature
more,
From these our interviews, in which I
steal
From all I may be or have been before,
To mingle with the universe, and
feel 1601
What I can ne'er express, yet can not all
conceal.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean
—roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in
vain;
Man marks the earth with ruin—his
control 1605
Stops with the shore;—upon the watery
plain
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth
remain
A shadow of man's ravage, save his own,
When for a moment, like a drop of rain,
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling
groan, 1610
Without a grave, unknelled, uncoffined
and unknown.

His steps are not upon thy paths—thy
fields
Are not a spoil for him—thou dost arise
And shake him from thee; the vile
strength he wields
For earth's destruction thou dost all
despise, 1615
Spurning him from thy bosom to the
skies,
And send'st him, shivering in thy play-
ful spray,
And howling, to his Gods, where haply
lies
His petty hope in some near port or bay,
And dashest him again to earth—there
let him lay. 1620

The armaments which thunderstrike the
walls
Of rock-built cities, bidding nations
quake,
And monarchs tremble in their capitals,
The oak leviathans, whose huge ribs
make
Their clay creator the vain title take 1625
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war;
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy
flake,

They melt into thy yeast of waves,
which mar
Alike the Armada's pride, or spoils of
Trafalgar.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all
save thee— 1630
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what
are they?
Thy waters washed them power while
they were free,
And many a tyrant since; their shores
obey
The stranger, slave or savage; their
decay
Has dried up realms to deserts:—not so
thou, 1635
Unchangeable save to thy wild waves'
play—
Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure
brow—
Such as creation's dawn beheld, thou
rollest now.

Thou glorious mirror, where the Al-
mighty's form
Glasses itself in tempests: in all time, 1640
Calm or convulsed—in breeze, or gale, or
storm,
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime
Dark-heaving;—boundless, endless, and
sublime—
The image of Eternity—the throne
Of the Invisible; even from out thy
slime 1645
The monsters of the deep are made;
each zone
Obeys thee; thou goest forth, dread,
fathomless, alone.

And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my
joy
Of youthful sports was on thy breast
to be
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward: from
a boy 1650
I wanted with thy breakers—they to
me
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing
fear,
For I was as it were a child of thee,
And trusted to thy billows far and near,
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I
do here. 1656

DON JUAN

From the DEDICATION

I

BOB SOUTHEY! You're a poet—Poet-laureate,
 And representative of all the race;
 Although 'tis true that you turned out a Tory at
 Last,—yours has lately been a common case;
 And now, my Epic Renegade! what are ye at?
 With all the Lakers, in and out of place?
 A nest of tune-fol persons, to my eye
 Like “four and twenty Blackbirds in a pye;

II

“Which pye being opened they began to sing”
 (This old song and new simile holds good),
 “A dainty dish to set before the King,”
 Or Regent, who admires such kind of food:—
 And Coleridge, too, has lately taken wing,
 But like a hawk encumbered with his hood,—
 Explaining metaphysics to the nation—
 I wish he would explain his Explanation.

III

You, Bob! are rather insolent, you know,
 At being disappointed in your wish
 To supersede all warblers here below,
 And be the only Blackbird in the dish;
 And then you overstrain yourself, or so,
 And tumble downward like the flying fish
 Gasping on deck, because you soar too high, Bob,
 And fall, for lack of moisture quite a-dry,
 Bob!

IV

And Wordsworth, in a rather long “Excursion”
 (I think the quarto holds five hundred pages),
 Has given a sample from the vasty version
 Of his new system to perplex the sages;

'Tis poetry—at least by his assertion,
 And may appear so when the dog-star
 rages—
 And he who understands it would be able
 To add a story to the Tower of Babel.

* * * * *

XVII

Meantime, Sir Laureate, I proceed to dedicate
 In honest simple verse, this song to you.
 And, if in flattering strains I do not predicate,
 'Tis that I still retain my “buff and blue”;
 My politics as yet are all to educate:
 Apostasy's so fashionable, too,
 To keep *one* creed's a task grown quite Herculean:
 Is it not so, my Tory, Ultra-Julian?

* * * * *

From CANTO III

THE ISLES OF GREECE

The Isles of Greece, the Isles of Greece!
 Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
 Where grew the arts of war and peace,—
 Where Delos rose, and Phœbus sprung!
 Eternal summer gilds them yet,
 But all, except their sun, is set.

The Scian and the Teian muse,
 The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
 Have found the fame your shores refuse:
 Their place of birth alone is mute
 To sounds which echo further west
 Than your sires' “Islands of the Blest.”

The mountains look on Marathon—
 And Marathon looks on the sea;
 And musing there an hour alone,
 I dreamed that Greece might still be free;
 For standing on the Persian's grave,
 I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sate on the rocky brow
 Which looks o'er sea-born Salamis;
 And ships, by thousands, lay below,
 And men in nations;—all were his!
 He counted them at break of day—
 And when the sun set, where were they?

And where are they? and where art thou,
 My country? On thy voiceless shore
 The heroic lay is tuneless now— 715
 The heroic bosom beats no more!
 And must thy lyre, so long divine,
 Degenerate into hands like mine?

'Tis something, in the dearth of fame,
 Though linked among a fettered race,
 To feel at least a patriot's shame, 721
 Even as I sing, suffuse my face;
 For what is left the poet here?
 For Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear.

Must *we* but weep o'er days more blest?
 Must *we* but blush?—Our fathers bled.
 Earth! render back from out thy breast 727
 A remnant of our Spartan dead!
 Of the three hundred grant but three,
 To make a new Thermopylæ! 730

What, silent still? and silent all?
 Ah! no; the voices of the dead
 Sound like a distant torrent's fall,
 And answer, "Let one living head,
 But one arise,—we come, we come!" 735
 'Tis but the living who are dumb.

In vain—in vain: strike other chords:
 Fill high the cup with Samian wine!
 Leave battles to the Turkish hordes,
 And shed the blood of Scio's vine! 740
 Hark! rising to the ignoble call—
 How answers each bold Bacchanal!

You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet:
 Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?
 Of two such lessons, why forget 745
 The nobler and the manlier one?
 You have the letters Cadmus gave—
 Think ye he meant them for a slave?

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
 We will not think of themes like these!
 It made Anacreon's song divine; 751
 He served—but served Polycrates—
 A tyrant; but our masters then
 Were still, at least, our countrymen.

The tyrant of the Chersonese 755
 Was freedom's best and bravest friend;
That tyrant was Miltiades!
 Oh! that the present hour would lend
 Another despot of the kind!
 Such chains as his were sure to bind. 760

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
 On Suli's rock, and Parga's shore,
 Exists the remnant of a line
 Such as the Doric mothers bore;
 And there, perhaps, some seed is sown, 765
 The Heracleidan blood might own.

Trust not for freedom to the Franks—
 They have a king who buys and sells:
 In native swords and native ranks,
 The only hope of courage dwells; 770
 But Turkish force, and Latin fraud,
 Would break your shield, however broad.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
 Our virgins dance beneath the shade—
 I see their glorious black eyes shine; 775
 But gazing on each glowing maid,
 My own the burning tear-drop laves,
 To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marbled steep,
 Where nothing, save the waves and I,
 May hear our mutual murmurs sweep; 781
 There, swan-like, let me sing and die:
 A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—
 Dash down yon cup of Samian wine!

Thus sung, or would, or could, or should
 have sung, 785
 The modern Greek, in tolerable verse;
 If not like Orpheus quite, when Greece
 was young,
 Yet in these times he might have done
 much worse:
 His strain displayed some feeling—right
 or wrong;
 And feeling, in a poet, is the source 790
 Of others' feeling; but they are such liars,
 And take all colors, like the hands of
 dyers.

But words are things, and a small drop of
 ink
 Falling, like dew, upon a thought,
 produces
 That which makes thousands, perhaps
 millions, think; 795
 'Tis strange, the shortest letter which
 man uses
 Instead of speech, may form a lasting link
 Of ages; to what straits old Time re-
 duces

Frail man, when paper—even a rag like
this,
Survives himself, his tomb, and all that's
his. 800

And when his bones are dust, his grave a
blank,

His station, generation, even his nation,
Become a thing, or nothing, save to rank
In chronological commemoration,
Some dull MS. oblivion long has sank, 805
Or graven stone found in a barrack's
station

In digging the foundation of a closet,
May turn his name up as a rare deposit.

And glory long has made the sages smile;
'Tis something, nothing, words, illusion,
wind— 810

Depending more upon the historian's
style,

Than on the name a person leaves be-
hind.

Troy owes to Homer what whist owes to
Hoyle:

The present century was growing blind
To the great Marlborough's skill in giving
knocks, 815

Until his late Life by Archdeacon Coxe.

Milton's the prince of poets—so we say;

A little heavy, but no less divine:

An independent being in his day—

Learned, pious, temperate in love and
wine: 820

But his life falling into Johnson's way,

We're told this great high priest of all
the Nine

Was whipt at college,—a harsh sire,—odd
spouse,

For the first Mrs. Milton left his house.

All these are, *certainly*, entertaining facts, 825

Like Shakespeare's stealing deer, Lord
Bacon's bribes;

Like Titus' youth, and Cæsar's earliest
acts;

Like Burns (whom Doctor Currie well
describes);

Like Cromwell's pranks;—but although
truth exacts

These amiable descriptions from the
scribes, 830

As most essential to their hero's story,
They do not much contribute to his glory.

All are not moralists, like Southey, when
He prated to the world of "Pantisoc-
racy";

Or Wordsworth, unexcised, unhired, who
then 835

Seasoned his peddler poems with de-
mocracy:

Or Coleridge, long before his flighty pen
Let to the *Morning Post* its aristocracy;
When he and Southey, following the same
path,

Espoused two partners (milliners of Bath).

Such names at present cut a convict
figure, 841

The very Botany Bay in moral geog-
raphy;

Their loyal treason, renegado rigor,
Are good manure for their more bare
biography.

Wordsworth's last quarto, by the way, is
bigger 845

Than any since the birthday of typog-
raphy;

A drowsy, frowsy poem called *The Excur-
sion*,

Writ in a manner which is my aversion.

* * * * *

But let me to my story: I must own,

If I have any fault, it is digression—

Leaving my people to proceed alone,

While I soliloquize beyond expression;

But these are my addresses from the
throne, 861

Which put off business to the ensuing
session,

Forgetting each omission is a loss to
The world, not quite so great as Ariosto.

I know that what our neighbors called
longueurs 865

(We've not so good a *word*, but have the
thing,

In that complete perfection which en-
sures

An epic from Bob Southey every
spring—)

Form not the true temptation which
allures

The reader; but 'twould not be hard to
bring 870

Some fine examples of the *épopée*

To prove its grand ingredient is *ennui*.

We learn from Horace, "Homer some-
times sleeps";
We feel without him, Wordsworth some-
times wakes,—
To show with what complacency he creeps,
With his dear "*Waggoners*," around his
lakes. 876
He wishes for "a boat" to sail the deeps—
Of ocean?—No, of air; and then he
makes
Another outcry for "a little boat,"
And drivels seas to set it well afloat. 880

If he must fain sweep o'er the ethereal
plain,
And Pegasus runs restive in his "*Wag-
gon*,"
Could he not beg the loan of Charles's
Wain,
Or pray Medea for a single dragon?
Or if too classic for his vulgar brain, 885
He feared his neck to venture such a
nag on,
And he must needs mount nearer to the
moon,
Could not the blockhead ask for a balloon?

* * * * *

O Hesperus! thou bringest all good
things— 945
Home to the weary, to the hungry cheer,
To the young bird the parent's brooding
wings,
The welcome stall to the o'erlabored
steer;
Whate'er of peace about our hearthstone
clings,
Whate'er our household gods protect
of dear, 950
Are gathered round us by thy look of rest;
Thou bring'st the child, too, to the
mother's breast.

Soft hour! which wakes the wish and
melts the heart
Of those who sail the seas, on the first day
When they from their sweet friends are
torn apart; 955
Or fills with love the pilgrim on his way
As the far bell of vesper makes him start,
Seeming to weep the dying day's decay;
Is this a fancy which our reason scorns?
Ah! surely nothing dies but something
mourns. 960

When Nero perished by the justest doom
Which ever the destroyer yet destroyed,
Amidst the roar of liberated Rome,
Of nations freed, and the world over-
joyed,
Some hands unseen strewed flowers upon
his tomb; 965
Perhaps the weakness of a heart not
void
Of feeling for some kindness done, when
power
Had left the wretch an uncorrupted hour.

But I'm digressing; what on earth has
Nero,
Or any such like sovereign buffoons, 970
To do with the transactions of my hero,
More than such madmen's fellow-man—
the moon's?
Sure my invention must be down at zero,
And I grown one of many "wooden
spoons"
Of verse (the name with which we Can-
tabs please 975
To dub the last of honors in degrees).

I feel this tediousness will never do—
'T is being *too* epic, and I must cut down
(In copying) this long canto into two;
They'll never find it out, unless I own 980
The fact, excepting some experienced few;
And then as an improvement 'twill be
shown:
I'll prove that such the opinion of the
critic is
From Aristotle *passim*.—See Πουητικης.

CANTO IV

Nothing so difficult as a beginning
In poesy, unless perhaps the end;
For oftentimes, when Pegasus seems win-
ning
The race, he sprains a wing, and down
we tend,
Like Lucifer, when hurled from heaven
for sinning; 5
Our sin the same, and hard as his to
mend,
Being pride, which leads the mind to soar
too far,
Till our own weakness shows us what we
are.

But Time, which brings all beings to their level,
And sharp Adversity, will teach at last 10

Man, and—as we would hope—perhaps the devil,

That neither of their intellects are vast:
While youth's hot wishes in our red veins revel,

We know not this—the blood flows on too fast;

But as the torrent widens towards the ocean, 15

We ponder deeply on each past emotion.

As boy, I thought myself a clever fellow,

And wished that others held the same opinion;

They took it up when my days grew more mellow,

And other minds acknowledged my dominion: 20

Now my sere fancy "falls into the yellow Leaf," and Imagination droops her pinion,

And the sad truth which hovers o'er my desk

Turns what was once romantic to burlesque.

And if I laugh at any mortal thing, 25

'T is that I may not weep; and if I weep,

'T is that our nature cannot always bring
Itself to apathy, for we must steep

Our hearts first in the depth of Lethe's spring,

Ere what we least wish to behold will sleep: 30

Thetis baptized her mortal son in Styx;
A mortal mother would on Lethe fix.

Some have accused me of a strange design
Against the creed and morals of the land,

And trace it in this poem every line: 35

I don't pretend that I quite understand
My own meaning when I would be *very* fine;

But the fact is, that I have nothing planned

Unless it were to be a moment merry,
A novel word in my vocabulary. 40

To the kind reader of our sober clime,
This way of writing will appear exotic;
Pulci was sire of the half-serious rhyme,

Who sang when chivalry was more Quixotic,

And revelled in the fancies of the time, 45

True knights, chaste dames, huge giants,
kings despot;

But all these, save the last, being obsolete,

I chose a modern subject as more meet.

How I have treated it, I do not know;

Perhaps no better than they have treated me 50

Who have imputed such designs as show
Not what they saw, but what they wished to see:

But if it gives them pleasure, be it so;

This is a liberal age, and thoughts are free:

Meantime Apollo plucks me by the ear, 55

And tells me to resume my story here.

Young Juan and his lady-love were left

To their own hearts' most sweet society;

Even Time the pitiless in sorrow cleft

With his rude scythe such gentle bosoms;
he 60

Sighed to behold them of their hours bereft,
Though foe to love; and yet they could not be

Meant to grow old, but die in happy spring,
Before one charm or hope had taken wing.

Their faces were not made for wrinkles,
their 65

Pure blood to stagnate, their great hearts to fail;

The blank gray was not made to blast
their hair,

But like the climes that know nor snow nor hail

They were all summer: lightning might assail

And shiver them to ashes, but to trail 70

A long and snake-like life of dull decay

Was not for them—they had too little clay.

They were alone once more; for them to be
Thus was another Eden; they were never

Weary, unless when separate: the tree 75

Cut from its forest root of years—the river

Dammed from its fountain—the child
 from the knee
 And breast maternal weaned at once for
 ever,—
 Would wither less than these two torn
 apart;
 Alas! there is no instinct like the heart— 80
 The heart—which may be broken: happy
 they!
 Thrice fortunate! who of that fragile
 mould,
 The precious porcelain of human clay,
 Break with the first fall: they can ne'er
 behold
 The long year linked with heavy day on
 day, 85
 And all which must be borne, and never
 told;
 While life's strange principle will often
 lie
 Deepest in those who long the most to die.
 "Whom the gods love die young," was
 said of yore,
 And many deaths do they escape by
 this: 90
 The death of friends, and that which
 slays even more—
 The death of friendship, love, youth,
 all that is,
 Except mere breath; and since the silent
 shore
 Awaits at last even those who longest
 miss
 The old archer's shafts, perhaps the early
 grave 95
 Which men weep over may be meant
 to save.

* * * * *

They gazed upon the sunset; 'tis an hour
 Dear unto all, but dearest to *their* eyes,
 For it had made them what they were: the
 power 155
 Of love had first o'erwhelmed them from
 such skies,
 When happiness had been their only dower,
 And twilight saw them linked in pas-
 sion's ties;
 Charmed with each other, all things
 charmed that brought
 The past still welcome as the present
 thought. 160

* * * * *

Mixed in each other's arms, and heart in
 heart,
 Why did they not then die?—they had
 lived too long 210
 Should an hour come to bid them breathe
 apart;
 Years could but bring them cruel things
 or wrong;
 The world was not for them, nor the world's
 art
 For beings passionate as Sappho's song;
 Love was born *with* them, *in* them, so
 intense 215
 It was their very spirit, not a sense.

They should have lived together deep in
 woods,
 Unseen as sings the nightingale; they
 were
 Unfit to mix in these thick solitudes
 Called social, haunts of hate, and vice,
 and care: 220
 How lovely every free-born creature
 broods!
 The sweetest songbirds nestle in a pair;
 The eagle soars alone; the gull and crow
 Flock o'er their carrion, just like men
 below.

Now pillowed cheek to cheek, in loving
 sleep, 225
 Haidée and Juan their siesta took,
 A gentle slumber, but it was not deep,
 For ever and anon a something shook
 Juan, and shuddering o'er his frame would
 creep;
 And Haidée's sweet lips murmured like a
 brook 230
 A wordless music, and her face so fair
 Stirred with her dream, as rose-leaves with
 the air;

Or as the stirring of a deep clear stream
 Within an Alpine hollow, when the wind
 Walks o'er it, was she shaken by the
 dream, 235
 The mystical usurper of the mind—
 O'erpowering us to be whate'er may seem
 Good to the soul which we no more can
 bind;
 Strange state of being! (for 'tis still to be)
 Senseless to feel, and with sealed eyes to
 see. 240

She dreamed of being alone on the sea-
 shore,
 Chained to a rock; she knew not how,
 but stir
 She could not from the spot, and the
 loud roar
 Grew, and each wave rose roughly,
 threatening her;
 And o'er her upper lip they seemed to
 pour, ²⁴⁵
 Until she sobbed for breath, and soon
 they were
 Foaming o'er her lone head, so fierce and
 high—
 Each broke to drown her, yet she could not
 die.

 Anon—she was released; and then she
 strayed
 O'er the sharp shingles with her bleed-
 ing feet, ²⁵⁰
 And stumbled almost every step she made;
 And something rolled before her in a
 sheet,
 Which she must still pursue howe'er afraid;
 'Twas white and indistinct, nor stopped
 to meet
 Her glance nor grasp, for still she gazed,
 and grasped, ²⁵⁵
 And ran, but it escaped her as she clasped.

 The dream changed:—in a cave she stood,
 its walls
 Were hung with marble icicles, the work
 Of ages on its water-fretted halls,
 Where waves might wash, and seals
 might breed and lurk; ²⁶⁰
 Her hair was dripping, and the very
 balls
 Of her black eyes seemed turned to
 tears, and mirk
 The sharp rocks looked below each drop
 they caught,
 Which froze to marble as it fell—she
 thought.

 And wet, and cold, and lifeless, at her
 feet, ²⁶⁵
 Pale as the foam that frothed on his
 dead brow,
 Which she essayed in vain to clear (how
 sweet
 Were once her cares, how idle seemed
 they now!)

Lay Juan, nor could aught renew the
 beat
 Of his quenched heart; and the sea-
 dirges low ²⁷⁰
 Rang in her sad ears like a mermaid's
 song,
 And that brief dream appeared a life too
 long.

 And gazing on the dead, she thought his
 face
 Faded, or altered into something new—
 Like to her father's features, till each
 trace ²⁷⁵
 More like and like to Lambro's aspect
 grew—
 With all his keen worn look and Grecian
 grace;
 And starting, she awoke, and what to
 view?
 O Powers of Heaven! what dark eye meets
 she there?
 'Tis—'tis her father's—fixed upon the
 pair! ²⁸⁰

 Then shrieking, she arose, and shrieking
 fell,
 With joy and sorrow, hope and fear, to
 see
 Him whom she deemed a habitant where
 dwell
 The ocean-buried, risen from death, to
 be
 Perchance the death of one she loved too
 well: ²⁸⁵
 Dear as her father had been to Haidée,
 It was a moment of that awful kind—
 I have seen such—but must not call to
 mind.

 Up Juan sprang to Haidée's bitter shriek,
 And caught her falling, and from off
 the wall ²⁹⁰
 Snatched down his sabre, in hot haste to
 wreak
 Vengeance on him who was the cause of
 all.
 Then Lambro, who till now forbore to
 speak,
 Smiled scornfully, and said, "Within
 my call,
 A thousand scimitars await the word; ²⁹⁵
 Put up, young man, put up your silly
 sword."

And Haidée clung around him; "Juan,
'tis—

'Tis Lambro—'tis my father! Kneel
with me—

He will forgive us—yes—it must be—
yes.

Oh dearest father, in this agony 300
Of pleasure and of pain—even while I kiss
Thy garment's hem with transport, can
it be

That doubt should mingle with my filial
joy?

Deal with me as thou wilt, but spare this
boy."

High and inscrutable the old man stood, 305
Calm in his voice, and calm within his
eye—

Not always signs with him of calmest
mood:

He looked upon her, but gave no reply;
Then turned to Juan, in whose cheek the
blood

Of came and went, as there resolved to
die 310

In arms, at least, he stood in act to spring
On the first foe whom Lambro's call might
bring.

"Young man, your sword!" So Lambro
once more said;

Juan replied, "Not while this arm is
free!"

The old man's cheek grew pale, but not
with dread, 315

And drawing from his belt a pistol, he
Replied, "Your blood be then on your own
head;"

Then looked close at the flint, as if to
see

'Twas fresh—for he had lately used the
lock—

And next proceeded quietly to cock. 320

It has a strange, quick jar upon the ear,
That cocking of a pistol, when you know
A moment more will bring the sight to
bear

Upon your person, twelve yards off, or
so;

A gentlemanly distance, not too near, 325
If you have got a former friend for foe;

But after being fired at once or twice,
The ear becomes more Irish, and less nice.

Lambro presented, and one instant more
Had stopped this canto, and Don Juan's
breath, 330

When Haidée threw herself her boy be-
fore;

Stern as her sire, "On me," she cried,
"let death

Descend—the fault is mine; this fatal
shore

He found—but sought not. I have
pledged my faith;

I love him—I will die with him: I knew 335
Your nature's firmness—know your daugh-
ter's too."

A minute past, and she had been all
tears,

And tenderness, and infancy; but now
She stood as one who championed human
fears—

Pale, statue-like, and stern, she wooed the
blow; 340

And tall beyond her sex, and their com-
peers,

She drew up to her height, as if to show
A fairer mark; and with a fixed eye scanned
Her father's face—but never stopped his
hand.

He gazed on her, and she on him; 'twas
strange 345

How like they looked! the expression
was the same,

Serenely savage, with a little change
In the large dark eye's mutual-darted
flame;

For she, too, was as one who could avenge,
If cause should be—a lioness, though
tame. 350

Her father's blood before her father's face
Boiled up, and proved her truly of his race.

I said they were alike, their features and
Their stature differing but in sex and
years;

Even to the delicacy of their hand 355
There was resemblance, such as true
blood wears;

And now to see them, thus divided, stand
In fixed ferocity, when joyous tears

And sweet sensations should have wel-
comed both,

Show what the passions are in their full
growth. 360

The father paused a moment, then withdrew

His weapon, and replaced it; but stood still,
And looking on her, as to look her through,
"Not *I*," he said, "have sought this stranger's ill;

Not *I* have made this desolation; few 365
Would bear such outrage, and forbear to kill;

But *I* must do my duty—how thou hast
Done thine, the present vouches for the past.

"Let him disarm; or, by my father's head,
His own shall roll before you like a ball!" 370

He raised his whistle, as the word he said,

And blew; another answered to the call,
And, rushing in disorderly, though led,
And armed from boot to turban, one and all,

Some twenty of his train came, rank on rank; 375

He gave the word—"Arrest or slay the Frank!"

Then, with a sudden movement, he withdrew

His daughter; while compressed within his clasp,

"Twixt her and Juan interposed the crew;
In vain she struggled in her father's grasp— 380

His arms were like a serpent's coil: then flew

Upon their prey, as darts an angry asp,
The file of pirates; save the foremost, who
Had fallen, with his right shoulder half cut through.

The second had his cheek laid open; but 385

The third, a wary, cool old sworder, took
The blows upon his cutlass, and then put
His own well in; so well, ere you could look,

His man was floored, and helpless at his foot,

With the blood running like a little brook, 390

From two smart sabre gashes, deep and red—

One on the arm, the other on the head.

And then they bound him where he fell,
and bore

Juan from the apartment: with a sign,
Old Lambro bade them take him to the shore, 395

Where lay some ships which were to sail at nine.

They laid him in a boat, and plied the oar
Until they reached some galliots, placed in line;

On board of one of these, and under hatches,

They stowed him, with strict orders to the watches. 400

The world is full of strange vicissitudes,
And here was one exceedingly unpleasant:

A gentleman so rich in the world's goods,
Handsome and young, enjoying all the present,

Just at the very time when he least broods
On such a thing, is suddenly to sea sent, 406

Wounded and chained, so that he cannot move,

And all because a lady fell in love.

Here *I* must leave him, for *I* grow pathetic,
Moved by the Chinese nymph of tears,
green tea! 410

Than whom Cassandra was not more prophetic;

For if my pure libations exceed three,
I feel my heart become so sympathetic,
That *I* must have recourse to black Bohea:

'Tis pity wine should be so deleterious, 415
For tea and coffee leave us much more serious.

* * * * *

I leave Don Juan for the present, safe—425
Not sound, poor fellow, but severely wounded;

Yet could his corporal pangs amount to half
Of those with which his Haidée's bosom bounded?

She was not one to weep, and rave, and chafe,

And then give way, subdued, because surrounded; 430

Her mother was a Moorish maid, from Fez,
Where all is Eden, or a wilderness.

There the large olive rains its amber store
 In marble founts; there grain, and flower,
 and fruit,
 Gush from the earth, until the land runs
 o'er; 435
 But there, too, many a poison tree has
 root,
 And midnight listens to the lion's roar,
 And long, long deserts scorch the camel's
 foot,
 Or heaving, whelm the helpless caravan;
 And as the soil is, so the heart of man. 440

Afric is all the sun's, and as her earth
 Her human clay is kindled: full of power
 For good or evil, burning from its birth,
 The Moorish blood partakes the planet's
 hour,
 And like the soil beneath, it will bring
 forth: 445
 Beauty and love were Haidée's mother's
 dower;
 But her large dark eye showed deep pas-
 sion's force,
 Though sleeping like a lion near a source.

Her daughter, tempered with a milder ray,
 —Like summer's clouds all silvery,
 smooth, and fair, 450
 Till slowly charged with thunder, they dis-
 play
 Terror to earth, and tempest to the air—
 Had held till now her soft and milky way,
 But, overwrought with passion and de-
 spair,
 The fire burst forth from her Numidian
 veins, 455
 Even as the Simoom sweeps the blasted
 plains.

The last sight which she saw was Juan's
 gore,
 And he himself o'ermastered and cut
 down;
 His blood was running on the very floor,
 Where late he trod, her beautiful, her
 own; 460
 Thus much she viewed an instant, and no
 more—
 Her struggles ceased with one convul-
 sive groan;
 On her sire's arm, which, until now, scarce
 held
 Her writhing, fell she like a cedar felled.

A vein had burst, and her sweet lips' pure
 dyes 465
 Were dabbled with the deep blood which
 ran o'er;
 And her head drooped, as when the lily lies
 O'ercharged with rain: her summoned
 handmaids bore
 Their lady to her couch, with gushing eyes;
 Of herbs and cordials they produced
 their store, 470
 But she defied all means they could em-
 ploy,
 Like one life could not hold, nor death de-
 stroy.

Days lay she in that state, unchanged,
 though chill—
 With nothing livid, still her lips were red;
 She had no pulse, but death seemed ab-
 sent still; 475
 No hideous sign proclaimed her surely
 dead;
 Corruption came not in each mind to kill
 All hope; to look upon her sweet face
 bred
 New thoughts of life, for it seemed full of
 soul—
 She had so much, earth could not claim
 the whole. 480

The ruling passion, such as marble shows
 When exquisitely chiselled, still lay
 there,
 But fixed as marble's unchanged aspect
 throws
 O'er the fair Venus, but forever fair;
 O'er the Laocoön's all eternal throes, 485
 And ever-dying Gladiator's air,
 Their energy, like life, forms all their fame,
 Yet looks not life, for they are still the
 same.

She woke at length, but not as sleepers
 wake,
 Rather the dead, for life seemed some-
 thing new, 490
 A strange sensation which she must partake
 Perforce, since whatsoever met her view
 Struck not on memory, though a heavy
 ache
 Lay at her heart, whose earliest beat,
 still true,
 Brought back the sense of pain without the
 cause, 495
 For, for a while, the furies made a pause.

She looked on many a face with vacant eye,
 On many a token, without knowing
 what;
 She saw them watch her, without asking
 why,
 And recked not who around her pillow
 sat; 500
 Not speechless, though she spoke not; not
 a sigh
 Relieved her thoughts; dull silence and
 quick chat
 Were tried in vain by those who served;
 she gave
 No sign, save breath, of having left the
 grave.

Her handmaids tended, but she heeded
 not; 505
 Her father watched, she turned her eyes
 away;
 She recognized no being, and no spot,
 However dear, or cherished in their day;
 They changed from room to room, but all
 forgot,
 Gentle, but without memory, she lay; 510
 At length those eyes, which they would
 fain be weaning
 Back to old thoughts, waxed full of fearful
 meaning.

And then a slave bethought her of a harp;
 The harper came and tuned his instru-
 ment;
 At the first notes, irregular and sharp, 515
 On him her flashing eyes a moment bent,
 Then to the wall she turned, as if to warp
 Her thoughts from sorrow through her
 heart re-sent;
 And he began a long low island song 519
 Of ancient days, ere tyranny grew strong.
 Anon her thin wan fingers beat the wall,
 In time to his old tune: he changed the
 theme,
 And sung of love; the fierce name struck
 through all
 Her recollection; on her flashed the
 dream
 Of what she was, and is, if ye could call 525
 To be so being: in a gushing stream
 The tears rushed forth from her o'er-
 clouded brain,
 Like mountain mists, at length dissolved
 in rain.

Short solace, vain relief!—thought came
 too quick,
 And whirled her brain to madness; she
 arose, 530
 As one who ne'er had dwelt among the
 sick,
 And flew at all she met, as on her foes;
 But no one ever heard her speak or shriek,
 Although her paroxysm drew towards its
 close:—
 Hers was a frenzy which disdained to
 rave, 535
 Even when they smote her, in the hope to
 save.

Yet she betrayed at times a gleam of sense;
 Nothing could make her meet her
 father's face,
 Though on all other things with looks in-
 tense
 She gazed, but none she ever could re-
 trace. 540
 Food she refused, and raiment; no pre-
 tense
 Availd for either; neither change of
 place,
 Nor time, nor skill, nor remedy, could give
 her
 Senses to sleep—the power seemed gone
 forever.

Twelve days and nights she withered thus;
 at last, 545
 Without a groan, or sigh, or glance, to
 show
 A parting pang, the spirit from her past;
 And they who watched her nearest,
 could not know
 The very instant, till the change that cast
 Her sweet face into shadow, dull and
 slow, 550
 Glazed o'er her eyes—the beautiful, the
 black—
 Oh! to possess such luster—and then lack!

* * * * *

Thus lived—thus died she; never more on
 her
 Shall sorrow light, or shame. She was
 not made
 Through years or moons the inner weight
 to bear,
 Which colder hearts endure till they are
 laid

By age in earth; her days and pleasures
 were 565
 Brief but delightful—such as had not
 stayed
 Long with her destiny; but she sleeps well
 By the sea-shore, whereon she loved to
 dwell.

The isle is now all desolate and bare,
 Its dwellings down, its tenants passed
 away; 570
 None but her own and father's grave is
 there,
 And nothing outward tells of human
 clay:
 Ye could not know where lies a thing so
 fair;
 No stone is there to show, no tongue to
 say
 What was: no dirge, except the hollow
 sea's, 575
 Mourns o'er the beauty of the Cyclades.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY (1792–1822)

HYMN TO INTELLECTUAL BEAUTY

The awful shadow of some unseen Power
 Floats though unseen amongst us,—
 visiting
 This various world with as inconstant
 wing
 As summer winds that creep from flower
 to flower;—
 Like moonbeams that behind some piny
 mountain shower, 5
 It visits with inconstant glance
 Each human heart and countenance;
 Like hues and harmonies of evening,—
 Like clouds in starlight widely
 spread,—
 Like memory of music fled,— 10
 Like aught that for its grace may be
 Dear, and yet dearer for its mystery.

Spirit of BEAUTY, that dost consecrate
 With thine own hues all thou dost shine
 upon
 Of human thought or form,—where art
 thou gone? 15
 Why dost thou pass away and leave our
 state,

This dim vast vale of tears, vacant and
 desolate?
 Ask why the sunlight not forever
 Weaves rainbows o'er yon mountain
 river,
 Why aught should fail and fade that once
 is shown, 20
 Why fear and dream and death and
 birth
 Cast on the daylight of this earth
 Such gloom,—why man has such a
 scope
 For love and hate, despondency and hope?
 No voice from some sublimer world hath
 ever 25
 To sage or poet these responses given—
 Therefore the names of Dæmon, Ghost,
 and Heaven,
 Remain the records of their vain endeavor,
 Frail spells—whose uttered charm might
 not avail to sever,
 From all we hear and all we see, 30
 Doubt, chance, and mutability.
 Thy light alone—like mist o'er mountains
 driven,
 Or music by the night wind sent,
 Through strings of some still instru-
 ment,
 Or moonlight on a midnight stream, 35
 Gives grace and truth to life's unquiet
 dream.
 Love, Hope, and Self-esteem, like clouds
 depart
 And come, for some uncertain moments
 lent;
 Man were immortal, and omnipotent,
 Didst thou, unknown and awful as thou
 art, 40
 Keep with thy glorious train firm state
 within his heart.
 Thou messenger of sympathies,
 That wax and wane in lovers' eyes—
 Thou—that to human thought art nour-
 ishment,
 Like darkness to a dying flame! 45
 Depart not as thy shadow came,
 Depart not—lest the grave should be,
 Like life and fear, a dark reality.
 While yet a boy I sought for ghosts, and
 sped
 Through many a listening chamber,
 cave, and ruin, 50

And starlight wood, with fearful steps
pursuing
Hopes of high talk with the departed
dead.

I called on poisonous names with which
our youth is fed;

I was not heard—I saw them not—
When musing deeply on the lot 55
Of life, at the sweet time when winds are
wooing

All vital things that wake to bring
News of birds and blossoming,—
Sudden, thy shadow fell on me;

I shrieked, and clasped my hands in
ecstasy! 60

I vowed that I would dedicate my powers
To thee and thine—have I not kept the
vow?

With beating heart and streaming
eyes, even now

I call the phantoms of a thousand hours
Each from his voiceless grave; they have
in visioned bowers 65

Of studious zeal or love's delight
Outwatched with me the envious
night—

They know that never joy illumed my
brow

Unlinked with hope that thou wouldst
free

This world from its dark slavery; 70
That thou—O awful LOVELINESS,

Wouldst give whate'er these words cannot
express.

The day becomes more solemn and serene
When noon is past—there is a har-
mony

In autumn, and a lustre in its sky, 75
Which through the summer is not heard or
seen,

As if it could not be, as if it had not
been!

Thus let thy power, which like the
truth

Of nature on my passive youth

Descended, to my onward life supply 80

Its calm—to one who worships thee,
And every form containing thee,
Whom, SPIRIT fair, thy spells did
bind

To fear himself, and love all human
kind.

OZYMANDIAS

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of
stone

Stand in the desert. Near them, on the
sand,

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose
frown,

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold com-
mand, 5

Tell that its sculptor well those passions
read

Which yet survive, (stamped on these
lifeless things,)

The hand that mocked them and the heart
that fed:

And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and de-
spair!" 11

Nothing beside remains. Round the de-
cay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and
bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

ODE TO THE WEST WIND

I

O wild West Wind, thou breath of
Autumn's being,

Thou, from whose unseen presence the
leaves dead

Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter
fleeing,

Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic
red,

Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou, 5
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed

The wingèd seeds, where they lie cold and
low,

Each like a corpse within its grave, until
Thine azure sister of the spring shall
blow

Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and
fill 10

(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in
air)

With living hues and odors plain and hill:

Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere;
Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh hear!

II

Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep
sky's commotion, ¹⁵
Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves
are shed,
Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven
and Ocean,

Angels of rain and lightning: there are
spread
On the blue surface of thine airy surge, ¹⁹
Like the bright hair uplifted from the head

Of some fierce Mænad, even from the dim
verge
Of the horizon to the zenith's height
The locks of the approaching storm. Thou
dirge

Of the dying year, to which this closing
night
Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre, ²⁵
Vaulted with all thy congregated might

Of vapors, from whose solid atmosphere
Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst:
oh hear!

III

Thou who didst waken from his summer
dreams
The blue Mediterranean, where he lay, ³⁰
Lulled by the coil of his crystalline streams

Beside a pumice isle in Baiæ's bay,
And saw in sleep old palaces and towers
Quivering within the wave's intenser
day,

All overgrown with azure moss and
flowers ³⁵
So sweet, the sense faints picturing them!
Thou
For whose path the Atlantic's level
powers

Cleave themselves into chasms, while
far below
The sea-blooms and the oozy woods
which wear
The sapless foliage of the ocean, know ⁴⁰

Thy voice, and suddenly grow gray with
fear,
And tremble and despoil themselves:
oh hear!

IV

If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear;
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee;
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and
share ⁴⁵

The impulse of thy strength, only less
free
Than thou, O uncontrollable! If even
I were as in my boyhood, and could be

The comrade of thy wanderings over
heaven,
As then, when to outstrip thy skyey
speed ⁵⁰
Scarce seemed a vision; I would ne'er
have striven

As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.
Oh! lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!

A heavy weight of hours has chained and
bowed ⁵⁵
One too like thee: tameless, and swift,
and proud.

V

Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:
What if my leaves are falling like its own!
The tumult of thy mighty harmonies

Will take from both a deep, autumnal
tone, ⁶⁰
Sweet though in sadness. Be thou, spirit
fierce,
My spirit! Be thou me, impetuous one!

Drive my dead thoughts over the universe
Like withered leaves to quicken a new
birth!

And, by the incantation of this verse, ⁶⁵

Scatter, as from an unextinguished hearth
Ashes and sparks, my words among man-
kind!
Be through my lips to unawakened earth

The trumpet of a prophecy! O wind, ⁶⁹
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

THE INDIAN SERENADE

I arise from dreams of thee
 In the first sweet sleep of night,
 When the winds are breathing low,
 And the stars are shining bright:
 I arise from dreams of thee, 5
 And a spirit in my feet
 Hath led me—who knows how?
 To thy chamber window, Sweet!

The wandering airs they faint
 On the dark, the silent stream— 10
 The Champak odors fail
 Like sweet thoughts in a dream;
 The nightingale's complaint,
 It dies upon her heart;—
 As I must on thine, 15
 Oh! beloved as thou art!

Oh lift me from the grass!
 I die! I faint! I fail!
 Let thy love in kisses rain
 On my lips and eyelids pale. 20
 My cheek is cold and white, alas!
 My heart beats loud and fast;—
 Oh! press it to thine own again,
 Where it will break at last.

THE CLOUD

I bring fresh showers for the thirsting
 flowers,
 From the seas and the streams;
 I bear light shade for the leaves when laid
 In their noon-day dreams.
 From my wings are shaken the dews that
 waken 5
 The sweet buds every one,
 When rocked to rest on their mother's
 breast,
 As she dances about the sun.
 I wield the flail of the lashing hail,
 And whiten the green plains under,
 And then again I dissolve it in rain, 11
 And laugh as I pass in thunder.

I sift the snow on the mountains below,
 And their great pines groan aghast;
 And all the night 'tis my pillow white, 15
 While I sleep in the arms of the
 blast.

Sublime on the towers of my skyey bowers,
 Lightning my pilot sits;
 In a cavern under is fettered the thunder,—
 It struggles and howls at fits; 20
 Over earth and ocean, with gentle motion,
 This pilot is guiding me,
 Lured by the love of the genii that move
 In the depths of the purple sea;
 Over the rills, and the crags, and the hills;
 Over the lakes and the plains, 26
 Wherever he dream, under mountain or
 stream,
 The Spirit he loves remains;
 And I all the while bask in heaven's
 blue smile,
 Whilst he is dissolving in rains. 30

The sanguine sunrise, with his meteor eyes,
 And his burning plumes outspread,
 Leaps on the back of my sailing rack,
 When the morning star shines dead,
 As on the jag of a mountain crag, 35
 Which an earthquake rocks and
 swings,
 An eagle alit, one moment may sit
 In the light of its golden wings.
 And when sunset may breathe, from the
 lit sea beneath,
 It ardors of rest and of love, 40
 And the crimson pall of eve may fall
 From the depth of heaven above,
 With wings folded I rest, on mine airy
 nest,
 As still as a brooding dove.

That orbèd maiden with white fire laden,
 Whom mortals call the moon, 46
 Glides glimmering o'er my fleece-like
 floor,
 By the midnight breezes strewn;
 And wherever the beat of her unseen feet,
 Which only the angels hear, 50
 May have broken the woof of my tent's
 thin roof,
 The stars peep behind her and peer;
 And I laugh to see them whirl and flee,
 Like a swarm of golden bees,
 When I widen the rent in my wind-built
 tent, 55
 Till the calm rivers, lakes, and seas,
 Like strips of the sky fallen through me on
 high,
 Are each paved with the moon and
 these.

I bind the sun's throne with a burning zone,
And the moon's with a girdle of
pearl; 60

The volcanoes are dim, and the stars reel
and swim,
When the whirlwinds my banner
unfurl.

From cape to cape, with a bridge-like
shape,

Over a torrent sea,
Sunbeam-proof, I hang like a roof, 65
The mountains its columns be.

The triumphal arch through which I
march

With hurricane, fire, and snow,
When the powers of the air are chained to
my chair,

Is the million-colored bow; 70
The sphere-fire above its soft colors wove,
While the moist earth was laughing
below.

I am the daughter of earth and water,
And the nursling of the sky;

I pass through the pores of the ocean and
shores; 75

I change, but I cannot die.
For after the rain when with never a
stain

The pavilion of heaven is bare,
And the winds and sunbeams with their
convex gleams

Build up the blue dome of air, 80
I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,

And out of the caverns of rain,
Like a child from the womb, like a ghost
from the tomb,

I arise and unbuild it again.

TO A SKYLARK

Hail to thee, blithe spirit!

Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart

In profuse strains of unpremeditated art. 5

Higher still and higher

From the earth thou springest

Like a cloud of fire;

The blue deep thou wingest,

And singing still dost soar, and soaring
ever singest. 10

In the golden lightning

Of the sunken sun,

O'er which clouds are bright'ning,

Thou dost float and run;

Like an unbodied joy whose race is just
begun. 15

The pale purple even

Melts around thy flight;

Like a star of heaven

In the broad day-light

Thou art unseen, but yet I hear thy shrill
delight, 20

Keen as are the arrows

Of that silver sphere,

Whose intense lamp narrows

In the white dawn clear, 24

Until we hardly see, we feel that it is there.

All the earth and air

With thy voice is loud,

As, when night is bare,

From one lonely cloud

The moon rains out her beams, and heaven
is overflowed. 30

What thou art we know not;

What is most like thee?

From rainbow clouds there flow not

Drops so bright to see

As from thy presence showers a rain of
melody. 35

Like a poet hidden

In the light of thought,

Singing hymns unbidden,

Till the world is wrought

To sympathy with hopes and fears it
heeded not: 40

Like a high-born maiden

In a palace tower,

Soothing her love-laden

Soul in secret hour

With music sweet as love, which over-
flows her bower: 45

Like a glow-worm golden

In a dell of dew,

Scattering unbeholden

Its ærial hue

Among the flowers and grass which screen
it from the view: 50

Like a rose embowered
 In its own green leaves,
 By warm winds deflowered,
 Till the scent it gives
 Makes faint with too much sweet these
 heavy-winged thieves. 55

Sound of vernal showers
 On the twinkling grass,
 Rain-awakened flowers,
 All that ever was
 Joyous, and clear, and fresh, thy music
 doth surpass. 60

Teach us, sprite or bird,
 What sweet thoughts are thine;
 I have never heard
 Praise of love or wine
 That panted forth a flood of rapture so
 divine: 65

Chorus Hymenæal,
 Or triumphal chant,
 Matched with thine would be all
 But an empty vaunt,
 A thing wherein we feel there is some hid-
 den want. 70

What objects are the fountains
 Of thy happy strain?
 What fields, or waves, or moun-
 tains?
 What shapes of sky or plain?
 What love of thine own kind? what ig-
 norance of pain? 75

With thy clear keen joyance
 Languor cannot be:
 Shadow of annoyance
 Never came near thee:
 Thou lovest, but ne'er knew love's sad
 satiety. 80

Waking or asleep,
 Thou of death must deem
 Things more true and deep
 Than we mortals dream,
 Or how could thy notes flow in such a
 crystal stream? 85

We look before and after,
 And pine for what is not:
 Our sincerest laughter
 With some pain is fraught;
 Our sweetest songs are those that tell of
 saddest thought. 90

Yet if we could scorn
 Hate, and pride, and fear;
 If we were things born
 Not to shed a tear,
 I know not how thy joy we ever should
 come near. 95

Better than all measures
 Of delightful sound,
 Better than all treasures
 That in books are found,
 Thy skill to poet were, thou scorner of the
 ground! 100

Teach me half the gladness
 That thy brain must know,
 Such harmonious madness
 From my lips would flow,
 The world should listen then, as I am lis-
 tening now. 105

TO —

Music, when soft voices die,
 Vibrates in the memory—
 Odors, when sweet violets sicken,
 Live within the sense they quicken.
 Rose-leaves, when the rose is dead, 5
 Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
 And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
 Love itself shall slumber on.

STANZAS

WRITTEN IN DEJECTION NEAR NAPLES

The sun is warm, the sky is clear,
 The waves are dancing fast and
 bright,
 Blue isles and snowy mountains wear
 The purple noon's transparent might;
 The breath of the moist earth is light, 5
 Around its unexpanded buds;
 Like many a voice of one delight,
 The winds, the birds, the ocean floods,
 The City's voice itself is soft like Solitude's.

I see the Deep's untrampled floor 10
 With green and purple seaweeds
 strown;

I see the waves upon the shore,
 Like light dissolved in star-showers,
 thrown:
 I sit upon the sands alone;
 The lightning of the noon-tide ocean 15
 Is flashing round me, and a tone
 Arises from its measured motion,
 How sweet! did any heart now share in
 my emotion.

Alas! I have nor hope nor health,
 Nor peace within nor calm around, 20
 Nor that content surpassing wealth
 The sage in meditation found,
 And walked with inward glory
 crowned—
 Nor fame, nor power, nor love, nor
 leisure.
 Others I see whom these surround—25
 Smiling they live, and call life pleas-
 ure;—
 To me that cup has been dealt in another
 measure.

Yet now despair itself is mild,
 Even as the winds and waters are;
 I could lie down like a tired child, 30
 And weep away the life of care
 Which I have borne and yet must
 bear,
 Till death like sleep might steal on me,
 And I might feel in the warm air
 My cheek grow cold, and hear the sea
 Breathe o'er my dying brain its last
 monotony. 36

Some might lament that I were cold,
 As I, when this sweet day is gone,
 Which my lost heart, too soon grown old,
 Insults with this untimely moan; 40
 They might lament—for I am one
 Whom men love not,—and yet regret,
 Unlike this day, which, when the sun
 Shall on its stainless glory set,
 Will linger, though enjoyed, like joy in
 memory yet. 45

THE WORLD'S WANDERERS

Tell me, thou Star, whose wings of light
 Speed thee in thy fiery flight,
 In what cavern of the night
 Will thy pinions close now?

Tell me, Moon, thou pale and gray 5
 Pilgrim of Heaven's homeless way,
 In what depth of night or day
 Seekest thou repose now?

Weary Wind, who wanderest
 Like the world's rejected guest, 10
 Hast thou still some secret nest
 On the tree or billow?

TIME

Unfathomable Sea! whose waves are years,
 Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep
 woe
 Are brackish with the salt of human tears!
 Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb
 and flow
 Claspest the limits of mortality, 5
 And sick of prey, yet howling on for
 more,
 Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable
 shore;
 Treacherous in calm, and terrible in storm,
 Who shall put forth on thee,
 Unfathomable Sea? 10

TO NIGHT

Swiftly walk o'er the western wave,
 Spirit of Night!
 Out of the misty eastern cave,
 Where all the long and lone daylight
 Thou wovest dreams of joy and fear, 5
 Which make thee terrible and dear,—
 Swift be thy flight!

Wrap thy form in a mantle gray,
 Star in-wrought!
 Blind with thine hair the eyes of Day: 10
 Kiss her until she be wearied out;
 Then wander o'er city, and sea, and land,
 Touching all with thine opiate wand—
 Come, long sought!

When I arose and saw the dawn, 15
 I sighed for thee;
 When light rode high, and the dew was
 gone,
 And noon lay heavy on flower and tree,
 And the weary Day turned to his rest,
 Lingered like an unloved guest, 20
 I sighed for thee.

Thy brother Death came, and cried,
 Wouldst thou me?
 Thy sweet child Sleep, the filmy-eyed,
 Murmured like a noon-tide bee, 25
 Shall I nestle near thy side?
 Wouldst thou me?—And I replied,
 No, not thee!

Death will come when thou art dead,
 Soon, too soon— 30
 Sleep will come when thou art fled;
 Of neither would I ask the boon
 I ask of thee, beloved Night—
 Swift be thine approaching flight,
 Come soon, soon! 35

TO ———

One word is too often profaned
 For me to profane it,
 One feeling too falsely disdained
 For thee to disdain it.
 One hope is too like despair 5
 For prudence to smother,
 And pity from thee more dear
 Than that from another.

I can give not what men call love,
 But wilt thou accept not 10
 The worship the heart lifts above
 And the Heavens reject not,—
 The desire of the moth for the star,
 Of the night for the morrow,
 The devotion to something afar 15
 From the sphere of our sorrow?

PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

From ACT II, SCENES IV AND V

Spirit of the Hour: My coursers are fed
 with the lightning,
 They drink of the whirlwind's stream,
 And when the red morning is bright'ning
 They bathe in the fresh sunbeam;
 They have strength for their swiftness
 I deem, 5
 Then ascend with me, daughter of Ocean.

I desire: and their speed makes night
 kindle;
 I fear: they outstrip the Typhoon;

Ere the cloud piled on Atlas can dwindle
 We encircle the earth and the moon: 10
 We shall rest from long labors at noon:
 Then ascend with me, daughter of Ocean.
 On the brink of the night and the morning
 My coursers are wont to respire;
 But the earth has just whispered a warn-
 ing 15
 That their flight must be swifter than
 fire:
 They shall drink the hot speed of de-
 sire!

From ACT II, SCENE V

Voice in the Air, singing: Life of Life! thy
 lips enkindle
 With their love the breath between
 them;
 And thy smiles before they dwindle
 Make the cold air fire; then screen them
 In those looks, where whoso gazes 5
 Faints, entangled in their mazes.
 Child of Light! thy limbs are burning
 Through the vest which seems to hide
 them;
 As the radiant lines of morning
 Through the clouds ere they divide
 them; 10
 And this atmosphere divinest
 Shrouds thee whereso'er thou shinest.
 Fair are others; none beholds thee,
 But thy voice sounds low and tender
 Like the fairest, for it folds thee 15
 From the sight, that liquid splendor,
 And all feel, yet see thee never,
 As I feel now, lost for ever!

Lamp of Earth! where'er thou movest
 Its dim shapes are clad with brightness,
 And the souls of whom thou lovest 21
 Walk upon the winds with lightness,
 Till they fail, as I am failing,
 Dizzy, lost, yet unbewailing!

From ACT IV

SONG

Here, oh, here
 We bear the bier
 Of the Father of many a cancelled year!
 Spectres we
 Of the dead Hours be, 5
 We bear Time to his tomb in eternity.

Strew, oh, strew
 Hair, not yew!
 Wet the dusty pall with tears, not dew!
 Be the faded flowers 10
 Of Death's bare bowers
 Spread on the corpse of the King of Hours!

Haste, oh, haste!
 As shades are chased
 Trembling, by day, from heaven's blue
 waste. 15
 We melt away
 Like dissolving spray
 From the children of a diviner day,
 With the lullaby
 Of winds that die 20
 On the bosom of their own harmony!

From ACT IV

Demogorgon: This is the day, which
 down the void abysm
 At the Earth-born's spell yawns for
 Heaven's despotism,
 And Conquest is dragged captive
 through the deep:
 Love, from its awful throne of patient
 power
 In the wise heart, from the last giddy
 hour 5
 Of dead endurance, from the slippery,
 steep,
 And narrow verge of crag-like agony,
 springs
 And folds over the world its healing wings.

Gentleness, Virtue, Wisdom, and Endur-
 ance,
 These are the seals of that most firm
 assurance 10
 Which bars the pit over Destruction's
 strength;
 And if, with infirm hand, Eternity,
 Mother of many acts and hours, should free
 The serpent that would clasp her with
 his length;

These are the spells by which to re-assume
 An empire o'er the disentangled doom. 16

To suffer woes which Hope thinks infinite;
 To forgive wrongs darker than death or
 night;
 To defy Power, which seems omnipo-
 tent;

To love, and bear; to hope till Hope
 creates 20
 From its own wreck the thing it contem-
 plates;
 Neither to change, nor falter, nor
 repent;
 This, like thy glory, Titan, is to be
 Good, great, and joyous, beautiful, and
 free;
 This is alone Life, Joy, Empire, and Vic-
 tory. 25

ADONAI

I weep for Adonais—he is dead!
 Oh, weep for Adonais! though our tears
 Thaw not the frost which binds so dear
 a head!
 And thou, sad Hour, selected from all
 years
 To mourn our loss, rouse thy obscure
 compeers, 5
 And teach them thine own sorrow! Say:
 "With me
 Died Adonais; till the Future dares
 Forget the Past, his fate and fame shall
 be
 An echo and a light unto eternity!"

Where wert thou, mighty Mother, when
 he lay, 10
 When thy Son lay, pierced by the shaft
 which flies
 In darkness? where was lorn Urania
 When Adonais died? With veiled eyes,
 'Mid listening Echoes, in her Paradise
 She sate, while one, with soft enamored
 breath, 15
 Rekindled all the fading melodies,
 With which, like flowers that mock the
 corse beneath,
 He had adorned and hid the coming bulk
 of death.

Oh, weep for Adonais—he is dead!
 Wake, melancholy Mother, wake and
 weep! 20
 Yet wherefore? Quench within their
 burning bed
 Thy fiery tears, and let thy loud heart
 keep
 Like his, a mute and uncomplaining
 sleep;

For he is gone where all things wise and fair
 Descend;—oh, dream not that the
 amorous Deep²⁵
 Will yet restore him to the vital air;
 Death feeds on his mute voice, and laughs
 at our despair.

Most musical of mourners, weep again!
 Lament anew, Urania!—He died,—
 Who was the Sire of an immortal strain,
 Blind, old, and lonely, when his coun-
 try's pride,³¹
 The priest, the slave, and the liberticide,
 Trampled and mocked with many a
 loathèd rite
 Of lust and blood; he went, unterrified,
 Into the gulf of death; but his clear
 Sprite³⁵
 Yet reigns o'er earth; the third among
 the sons of light.

Most musical of mourners, weep anew!
 Not all to that bright station dared to
 climb;
 And happier they their happiness who
 knew,
 Whose tapers yet burn through that
 night of time⁴⁰
 In which suns perished; others more
 sublime,
 Struck by the envious wrath of man or
 God,
 Have sunk, extinct in their refulgent
 prime;
 And some yet live, treading the thorny
 road,
 Which leads, through toil and hate, to
 Fame's serene abode.⁴⁵

But now, thy youngest, dearest one has
 perished,
 The nursling of thy widowhood, who
 grew,
 Like a pale flower by some sad maiden
 cherished,
 And fed with true love tears, instead
 of dew;
 Most musical of mourners, weep anew!
 Thy extreme¹ hope, the loveliest and
 the last,⁵¹
 The bloom, whose petals, nipped be-
 fore they blew,

¹ last.

Died on the promise of the fruit, is
 waste;
 The broken lily lies—the storm is overpast.

To that high Capital, where kingly
 Death⁵⁵
 Keeps his pale court in beauty and
 decay,
 He came; and bought, with price of
 purest breath,
 A grave among the eternal.—Come
 away!
 Haste, while the vault of blue Italian
 day
 Is yet his fitting charnel-roof! while
 still⁶⁰
 He lies, as if in dewy sleep he lay;
 Awake him not! surely he takes his fill
 Of deep and liquid rest, forgetful of all ill.

He will awake no more, oh, never
 more!—
 Within the twilight chamber spreads
 apace,⁶⁵
 The shadow of white Death, and at the
 door
 Invisible Corruption waits to trace
 His extreme way to her dim dwelling-
 place;
 The eternal Hunger sits, but pity and awe
 Soothe her pale rage, nor dares she to
 deface⁷⁰
 So fair a prey, till darkness, and the law
 Of change, shall o'er his sleep the mortal
 curtain draw.

Oh, weep for Adonais!—The quick
 Dreams,
 The passion-wingèd Ministers of
 thought,
 Who were his flocks, whom near the
 living streams⁷⁵
 Of his young spirit he fed, and whom
 he taught
 The love which was its music, wander
 not,—
 Wander no more, from kindling brain
 to brain,
 But droop there, whence they sprung;
 and mourn their lot
 Round the cold heart, where, after
 their sweet pain,⁸⁰
 They ne'er will gather strength, or find
 a home again.

And one with trembling hands clasps
 his cold head,
 And fans him with her moonlight
 wings, and cries:
 "Our love, our hope, our sorrow, is
 not dead;
 See, on the silken fringe of his faint
 eyes, 85
 Like dew upon a sleeping flower, there
 lies
 A tear some Dream has loosened from
 his brain."
 Lost Angel of a ruined Paradise!
 She knew not 'twas her own; as with
 no stain
 She faded, like a cloud which had outwept
 its rain. 90

One from a lucid urn of starry dew
 Washed his light limbs as if embalming
 them;
 Another clipped her profuse locks, and
 threw
 The wreath upon him, like an anadem,¹
 Which frozen tears instead of pearls
 begem; 95
 Another in her wilful grief would break
 Her bow and wingèd reeds, as if to
 stem
 A greater loss with one which was more
 weak;
 And dull the barbèd fire against his
 frozen cheek.

Another Splendor on his mouth alit, 100
 That mouth, whence it was wont to
 draw the breath
 Which gave it strength to pierce the
 guarded wit,
 And pass into the panting heart beneath
 With lightning and with music: the
 damp death 104
 Quenched its caress upon his icy lips;
 And, as a dying meteor stains a wreath
 Of moonlight vapor, which the cold
 night clips,
 It flushed through his pale limbs, and
 passed to its eclipse.

And others came . . . Desires and Ad-
 orations,
 Wingèd Persuasions and veiled Desti-
 nies, 110

¹ chaplet.

Splendours, and Glooms, and glimmer-
 ing Incarnations
 Of hopes and fears, and twilight Phan-
 tasies;
 And Sorrow, with her family of Sighs,
 And Pleasure, blind with tears, led by
 the gleam
 Of her own dying smile instead of eyes,
 Came in slow pomp;—the moving
 pomp might seem 116
 Like pageantry of mist on an autumnal
 stream.

All he had loved, and moulded into
 thought,
 From shape, and hue, and odor, and
 sweet sound,
 Lamented Adonais. Morning sought
 Her eastern watch-tower, and her hair
 unbound, 121
 Wet with the tears which should adorn
 the ground,
 Dimmed the aërial eyes that kindle day;
 Afar the melancholy thunder moaned;
 Pale Ocean in unquiet slumber lay; 125
 And the wild winds flew round, sobbing in
 their dismay.

Lost Echo sits amid the voiceless
 mountains,
 And feeds her grief with his remembered
 lay,
 And will no more reply to winds or
 fountains,
 Or amorous birds perched on the young
 green spray, 130
 Or herdsman's horn, or bell at closing
 day;
 Since she can mimic not his lips, more
 dear
 Than those for whose disdain she
 pined away
 Into a shadow of all sounds:—a drear
 Murmur, between their songs, is all the
 woodmen hear. 135

Grief made the young Spring wild, and
 she threw down
 Her kindling buds, as if she Autumn
 were,
 Or they dead leaves; since her delight
 is flown,
 For whom should she have waked the
 sullen year?

To Phœbus was not Hyacinth so dear
 Nor to himself Narcissus, as to both ¹⁴¹
 Thou, Adonais: wan they stand and
 sere
 Amid the faint companions of their
 youth,
 With dew all turned to tears; odor, to
 sighing ruth.

Thy spirit's sister, the lorn nightingale,
 Mourns not her mate with such melodi-
 ous pain; ¹⁴⁶
 Not so the eagle, who like thee could
 scale
 Heaven, and could nourish in the sun's
 domain
 Her mighty youth with morning, doth
 complain
 Soaring and screaming round her empty
 nest, ¹⁵⁰
 As Albion wails for thee: the curse of
 Cain
 Light on his head who pierced thy in-
 nocent breast,
 And scared the angel soul that was its
 earthly guest!

Ah, woe is me! Winter is come and gone,
 But grief returns with the revolving
 year; ¹⁵⁵
 The airs and streams renew their joy-
 ous tone;
 The ants, the bees, the swallows re-
 appear;
 Fresh leaves and flowers deck the dead
 Seasons' bier;
 The amorous birds now pair in every
 brake,
 And build their mossy homes in field
 and brere;¹ ¹⁶⁰
 And the green lizard, and the golden
 snake,
 Like unimprisoned flames, out of their
 trance awake.

Through wood and stream and field and
 hill and ocean
 A quickening life from the Earth's heart
 has burst
 As it has ever done, with change and
 motion ¹⁶⁵
 From the great morning of the world
 when first

¹ briar.

God dawned on Chaos; in its stream
 immersed
 The lamps of Heaven flash with a softer
 light;
 All baser things pant with life's sacred
 thirst;
 Diffuse themselves; and spend in love's
 delight ¹⁷⁰
 The beauty and the joy of their renewed
 might.

The leprous corpse touched by this
 spirit tender
 Exhales itself in flowers of gentle
 breath;
 Like incarnations of the stars, when
 splendor
 Is changed to fragrance, they illumine
 death ¹⁷⁵
 And mock the merry worm that wakes
 beneath;
 Naught we know, dies. Shall that
 alone which knows
 Be as a sword consumed before the
 sheath
 By sightless² lightning?—th' intense
 atom glows
 A moment, then is quenched in a most
 cold repose. ¹⁸⁰

Alas! that all we loved of him should be,
 But for our grief, as if it had not been,
 And grief itself be mortal! Woe is me!
 Whence are we, and why are we? of
 what scene
 The actors or spectators? Great and
 mean
 Meet massed in death, who lends what
 life must borrow. ¹⁸⁶
 As long as skies are blue, and fields are
 green,
 Evening must usher night, night urge
 the morrow,
 Month follow month with woe, and year
 wake year to sorrow.

He will awake no more, oh, never more!
 "Wake thou," cried Misery, "childless
 Mother, rise ¹⁹¹
 Out of thy sleep, and slake, in thy heart's
 core,
 A wound more fierce than his with
 tears and sighs."

² invisible.

And all the Dreams that watched
 Urania's eyes,
 And all the Échoes whom their sister's
 song¹⁹⁵
 Had held in holy silence, cried:
 "Arise!"
 Swift as a Thought by the snake
 Memory stung,
 From her ambrosial rest the fading
 Splendor sprung.

She rose like an autumnal Night, that
 springs
 Out of the East, and follows wild and
 drear²⁰⁰
 The golden Day, which, on eternal
 wings,
 Even as a ghost abandoning a bier,
 Had left the Earth a corpse. Sorrow
 and fear
 So struck, so roused, so rapt Urania;
 So saddened round her like an atmos-
 phere²⁰⁵
 Of stormy mist; so swept her on her
 way
 Even to the mournful place where Adonais
 lay.

Out of her secret Paradise she sped,
 Through camps and cities rough with
 stone, and steel,
 And human hearts, which to her æry
 tread²¹⁰
 Yielding not, wounded the invisible
 Palms of her tender feet where'er they
 fell:
 And barbèd tongues, and thoughts more
 sharp than they,
 Rent the soft Form they never could
 repel,
 Whose sacred blood, like the young
 tears of May,²¹⁵
 Paved with eternal flowers that unde-
 serving way.

In the death chamber for a moment
 Death,
 Shamed by the presence of that living
 Might,
 Blushed to annihilation, and the breath
 Revisited those lips, and life's pale
 light²²⁰
 Flashed through those limbs, so late
 her dear delight.

"Leave me not wild and drear and
 comfortless,
 As silent lightning leaves the starless
 night!
 Leave me not!" cried Urania: her dis-
 tress
 Roused Death: Death rose and smiled,
 and met her vain caress.²²⁵

"Stay yet awhile! speak to me once
 again;
 Kiss me, so long but as a kiss may live;
 And in my heartless breast and burn-
 ing brain
 That word, that kiss, shall all thoughts
 else survive,
 With food of saddest memory kept
 alive,²³⁰
 Now thou art dead, as if it were a part
 Of thee, my Adonais! I would give
 All that I am to be as thou now art!
 But I am chained to Time, and cannot
 thence depart!

"Oh gentle child, beautiful as thou
 wert,²³⁵
 Why didst thou leave the trodden paths
 of men
 Too soon, and with weak hands though
 mighty heart
 Dare the unpastured dragon in his den?
 Defenceless as thou wert, oh where
 was then
 Wisdom the mirrored shield, or scorn
 the spear?²⁴⁰
 Or hadst thou waited the full cycle,
 when
 Thy spirit should have filled its crescent
 sphere,
 The monsters of life's waste had fled from
 thee like deer.

"The herded wolves, bold only to pur-
 sue;
 The obscene ravens, clamorous o'er the
 dead;²⁴⁵
 The vultures to the conqueror's banner
 true,
 Who feed where Desolation first has
 fed,
 And whose wings rain contagion;—how
 they fled,
 When like Apollo, from his golden bow,
 The Pythian of the age one arrow sped

And smiled!—The spoilers tempt no
second blow; 251
They fawn on the proud feet that spurn
them lying low.

“The sun comes forth, and many reptiles spawn;
He sets, and each ephemeral insect then
Is gathered into death without a dawn, 255
And the immortal stars awake again;
So is it in the world of living men:
A godlike mind soars forth, in its delight
Making earth bare and veiling heaven,
and when
It sinks, the swarms that dimmed or shared its light 260
Leave to its kindred lamps the spirit’s awful night.”

Thus ceased she: and the mountain shepherds came,
Their garlands sere, their magic mantles rent;
The Pilgrim of Eternity, whose fame
Over his living head like Heaven is bent, 265
An early but enduring monument,
Came, veiling all the lightnings of his song
In sorrow; from her wilds Ierne sent
The sweetest lyrist of her saddest wrong,
And love taught grief to fall like music
from his tongue. 270

Midst others of less note, came one frail Form,
A phantom among men, companionless
As the last cloud of an expiring storm
Whose thunder is its knell; he, as I guess,
Had gazed on Nature’s naked loveliness, 275
Actæon-like, and now he fled astray
With feeble steps o’er the world’s wilderness,
And his own thoughts, along that rugged way,
Pursued, like raging hounds, their father
and their prey.

A pardlike¹ Spirit beautiful and swift—
A Love in desolation masked;—a Power 281
Girt round with weakness;—it can scarce uplift
The weight of the superincumbent hour;
It is a dying lamp, a falling shower,
A breaking billow;—even whilst we speak 285
Is it not broken? On the withering flower
The killing sun smiles brightly; on a cheek
The life can burn in blood, even while the heart may break.

His head was bound with pansies overblown,
And faded violets, white, and pied, and blue; 290
And a light spear topped with a cypress cone,
Round whose rude shaft dark ivy tresses grew
Yet dripping with the forest’s noonday dew,
Vibrated, as the ever-beating heart
Shook the weak hand that grasped it; of that crew 295
He came the last, neglected and apart;
A herd-abandoned deer, struck by the hunter’s dart.

All stood aloof, and at his partial moan
Smiled through their tears; well knew that gentle band 299
Who in another’s fate now wept his own;
As, in the accents of an unknown land,
He sung new sorrow; sad Urania scanned
The Stranger’s mien, and murmured: “Who art thou?”
He answered not, but with a sudden hand
Made bare his branded and ensanguined brow, 305
Which was like Cain’s or Christ’s—Oh! that it should be so!

What softer voice is hushed over the dead?
Athwart what brow is that dark mantle thrown?

¹ leopardlike.

What form leans sadly o'er the white
 death-bed,
 In mockery of monumental stone, 310
 The heavy heart heaving without a
 moan?
 If it be He, who, gentlest of the wise,
 Taught, soothed, loved, honored the
 departed one,
 Let me not vex with inharmonious
 sighs
 The silence of that heart's accepted sacri-
 fice. 315

Our Adonais has drunk poison—oh!
 What deaf and viperous murderer could
 crown
 Life's early cup with such a draught of
 woe?
 The nameless worm would now itself
 disown:
 It felt, yet could escape the magic tone
 Whose prelude held all envy, hate, and
 wrong, 321
 But what was howling in one breast
 alone,
 Silent with expectation of the song,
 Whose master's hand is cold, whose silver
 lyre unstrung.

Live thou, whose infamy is not thy
 fame! 325
 Live! fear no heavier chastisement from
 me,
 Thou noteless blot on a remembered
 name!
 But be thyself, and know thyself to
 be!
 And ever at thy season be thou free
 To spill the venom when thy fangs o'er-
 flow: 330
 Remorse and Self-contempt shall cling
 to thee;
 Hot Shame shall burn upon thy secret
 brow,
 And like a beaten hound tremble thou
 shalt—as now.

Nor let us weep that our delight is fled
 Far from these carrion kites that scream
 below; 335
 He wakes or sleeps with the enduring
 dead;
 Thou canst not soar where he is sitting
 now.—

Dust to the dust! but the pure spirit
 shall flow
 Back to the burning fountain whence
 it came,
 A portion of the Eternal, which must
 glow 340
 Through time and change, unquench-
 ably the same,
 Whilst thy cold embers choke the sordid
 hearth of shame.

Peace, peace! he is not dead, he doth
 not sleep—
 He hath awakened from the dream of
 life—
 'Tis we who, lost in stormy visions,
 keep 345
 With phantoms an unprofitable strife,
 And in mad trance strike with our
 spirit's knife
 Invulnerable nothings.—*We* decay
 Like corpses in a charnel; fear and
 grief
 Convulse us and consume us day by
 day, 350
 And cold hopes swarm like worms within
 our living clay

He has outsoared the shadow of our
 night;
 Envy and calumny and hate and pain,
 And that unrest which men miscall de-
 light,
 Can touch him not and torture not
 again; 355
 From the contagion of the world's slow
 stain
 He is secure, and now can never mourn
 A heart grown cold, a head grown grey
 in vain;
 Nor, when the spirit's self has ceased
 to burn,
 With sparkless ashes load an unlamented
 urn. 360

He lives, he wakes—'tis Death is dead,
 not he;
 Mourn not for Adonais.—Thou young
 Dawn,
 Turn all thy dew to splendor, for from
 thee
 The spirit thou lamentest is not gone:
 Ye caverns and ye forests, cease to
 moan! 365

Cease, ye faint flowers and fountains,
 and thou Air,
 Which like a mourning veil thy scarf
 hadst thrown
 O'er the abandoned Earth, now leave
 it bare
 Even to the joyous stars which smile on
 its despair!

He is made one with Nature: there is
 heard 370
 His voice in all her music, from the
 moan
 Of thunder, to the song of night's sweet
 bird;
 He is a presence to be felt and known
 In darkness and in light, from herb and
 stone,
 Spreading itself where'er that Power
 may move 375
 Which has withdrawn his being to its
 own;
 Which wields the world with never-
 wearied love,
 Sustains it from beneath, and kindles it
 above.

He is a portion of the loveliness
 Which once he made more lovely: he
 doth bear 380
 His part, while the one Spirit's plastic
 stress
 Sweeps through the dull dense world,
 compelling there
 All new successions to the forms they
 wear;
 Torturing th' unwilling dross that
 checks its flight
 To its own likeness, as each mass may
 bear; 385
 And bursting in its beauty and its
 might
 From trees and beasts and men into the
 Heaven's light.

The splendors of the firmament of time
 May be eclipsed, but are extinguished
 not;
 Like stars to their appointed height
 they climb, 390
 And death is a low mist which cannot
 blot
 The brightness it may veil. When
 lofty thought

Lifts a young heart above its mortal
 lair,
 And love and life contend in it, for what
 Shall be its earthly doom, the dead live
 there 395
 And move like winds of light on dark and
 stormy air.

The inheritors of unfulfilled renown
 Rose from their thrones, built beyond
 mortal thought,
 Far in the Unapparent. Chatterton
 Rose pale, his solemn agony had not 400
 Yet faded from him; Sidney, as he
 fought
 And as he fell and as he lived and loved,
 Sublimely mild, a Spirit without spot,
 Arose; and Lucan, by his death ap-
 proved:
 Oblivion, as they rose, shrank like a thing
 reproved. 405

And many more, whose names on Earth
 are dark,
 But whose transmitted effluence cannot
 die
 So long as fire outlives the parent spark,
 Rose, robed in dazzling immortality.
 "Thou art become as one of us," they
 cry, 410
 "It was for thee yon kingless sphere has
 long
 Swung blind in unascended majesty,
 Silent alone amid an Heaven of Song.
 Assume thy winged throne, thou Vesper
 of our throng!"

Who mourns for Adonais? Oh come
 forth, 415
 Fond wretch! and know thyself and
 him aright.
 Clasp with thy panting soul the pen-
 dulous Earth;
 As from a centre, dart thy spirit's light
 Beyond all worlds, until its spacious
 might
 Satiates the void circumference: then
 shrink 420
 Even to a point within our day and
 night;
 And keep thy heart light, lest it make
 thee sink,
 When hope has kindled hope, and lured
 thee to the brink.

Or go to Rome, which is the sepulchre,
 Oh! not of him, but of our joy: 'tis
 naught ⁴²⁵
 That ages, empires, and religions there
 Lie buried in the ravage they have
 wrought;
 For such as he can lend,—they borrow
 not
 Glory from those who made the world
 their prey;
 And he is gathered to the kings of
 thought ⁴³⁰
 Who waged contention with their time's
 decay,
 And of the past are all that cannot pass
 away.

Go thou to Rome,—at once the Par-
 adise,
 The grave, the city, and the wilder-
 ness;
 And where its wrecks like shattered
 mountains rise, ⁴³⁵
 And flowering weeds and fragrant copses
 dress
 The bones of Desolation's nakedness
 Pass, till the Spirit of the spot shall
 lead
 Thy footsteps to a slope of green access
 Where, like an infant's smile, over the
 dead ⁴⁴⁰
 A light of laughing flowers along the grass
 is spread.

And grey walls moulder round, on which
 dull Time
 Feeds, like slow fire upon a hoary
 brand;
 And one keen pyramid with wedge sub-
 lime,
 Pavilioning the dust of him who
 planned ⁴⁴⁵
 This refuge for his memory, doth stand
 Like flame transformed to marble; and
 beneath,
 A field is spread, on which a newer band
 Have pitched in Heaven's smile their
 camp of death,
 Welcoming him we lose with scarce ex-
 tinguished breath. ⁴⁵⁰

Here pause: these graves are all too
 young as yet
 To have outgrown the sorrow which
 consigned

Its charge to each; and if the seal is
 set,
 Here, on one fountain of a mourning
 mind,
 Break it not thou! too surely shalt thou
 find ⁴⁵⁵
 Thine own well full, if thou returnest
 home,
 Of tears and gall. From the world's
 bitter wind
 Seek shelter in the shadow of the
 tomb.
 What Adonais is, why fear we to be-
 come?

The One remains, the many change and
 pass; ⁴⁶⁰
 Heaven's light forever shines, Earth's
 shadows fly;
 Life, like a dome of many-colored glass,
 Stains the white radiance of Eternity,
 Until Death tramples it to fragments.—
 Die,
 If thou wouldst be with that which
 thou dost seek! ⁴⁶⁵
 Follow where all is fled!—Rome's azure
 sky,
 Flowers, ruins, statues, music, words,
 are weak
 The glory they transfuse with fitting
 truth to speak.

Why linger, why turn back, why shrink,
 my Heart?
 Thy hopes are gone before: from all
 things here ⁴⁷⁰
 They have departed; thou shouldst now
 depart!
 A light is past from the revolving
 year,
 And man, and woman; and what still is
 dear
 Attracts to crush, repels to make thee
 wither.
 The soft sky smiles,—the low wind
 whispers near; ⁴⁷⁵
 'Tis Adonais calls! oh, hasten thither,
 No more let Life divide what Death can
 join together.

That Light whose smile kindles the
 Universe,
 That Beauty in which all things work
 and move,

That Benediction which the eclipsing
 Curse 480
 Of birth can quench not, that sustaining
 Love
 Which, through the web of being
 blindly wove
 By man and beast and earth and air and
 sea,
 Burns bright or dim, as each are mirrors
 of
 The fire for which all thirst, now beams
 on me, 485
 Consuming the last clouds of cold mor-
 tality.

The breath whose might I have invoked
 in song
 Descends on me; my spirit's bark is
 driven
 Far from the shore, far from the trem-
 bling throng
 Whose sails were never to the tempest
 given; 490
 The massy earth and spherèd skies
 are riven!
 I am borne darkly, fearfully, afar;
 Whilst, burning through the inmost
 veil of Heaven,
 The soul of Adonais, like a star, 494
 Beacons from the abode where the Eternal
 are.

FINAL CHORUS FROM HELLAS

The world's great age begins anew,
 The golden years return,
 The earth doth like a snake renew
 Her winter weeds outworn:
 Heaven smiles, and faiths and empires
 gleam, 5
 Like wrecks of a dissolving dream.

A brighter Hellas rears its mountains
 From waves serener far;
 A new Peneus rolls his fountains
 Against the morning-star. 10
 Where fairer Tempes bloom, there sleep
 Young Cyclads on a sunnier deep.

A loftier Argo cleaves the main,
 Fraught with a later prize;
 Another Orpheus sings again, 15
 And loves, and weeps, and dies.

A new Ulysses leaves once more
 Calypso for his native shore.

Oh, write no more the tale of Troy,
 If earth Death's scroll must be! 20
 Nor mix with Laian rage the joy
 Which dawns upon the free:
 Although a subtler Sphinx renew
 Riddles of death Thebes never knew.

Another Athens shall arise, 25
 And to remoter time
 Bequeath, like sunset to the skies,
 The splendor of its prime;
 And leave, if naught so bright may live,
 All earth can take or Heaven can give. 30

Saturn and Love their long repose
 Shall burst, more bright and good
 Than all who fell, than One who rose,
 Than many unsubdued:
 Not gold, not blood, their altar dowers, 35
 But votive tears and symbol flowers.

Oh, cease! must hate and death return?
 Cease! must men kill and die?
 Cease! drain not to its dregs the urn
 Of bitter prophecy. 40
 The world is weary of the past,
 Oh, might it die or rest at last!

WHEN THE LAMP IS SHATTERED

When the lamp is shattered,
 The light in the dust lies dead;
 When the cloud is scattered,
 The rainbow's glory is shed.
 When the lute is broken, 5
 Sweet tones are remembered not;
 When the lips have spoken,
 Loved accents are soon forgot.

As music and splendor
 Survive not the lamp and the lute, 10
 The heart's echoes render
 No song when the spirit is mute:—
 No song but sad dirges,
 Like the wind through a ruined cell,
 Or the mournful surges 15
 That ring the dead seaman's knell.

When hearts have once mingled,
 Love first leaves the well-built nest;
 The weak one is singled 20
 To endure what it once possessed.

O Love! who bewailest
The frailty of all things here,
Why choose you the frailest
For your cradle, your home, and your
bier?

Its passions will rock thee 25
As the storms rock the ravens on high:

Bright reason will mock thee,
Like the sun from a wintry sky.
From thy nest every rafter
Will rot, and thine eagle home 30
Leave thee naked to laughter,
When leaves fall and cold winds come.

WITH A GUITAR, TO JANE

Ariel to Miranda:—Take
This slave of Music, for the sake
Of him who is the slave of thee,
And teach it all the harmony
In which thou canst, and only thou, 5
Make the delighted spirit glow,
Till joy denies itself again,
And, too intense, is turned to pain;
For by permission and command
Of thine own Prince Ferdinand, 10
Poor Ariel sends this silent token
Of more than ever can be spoken;
Your guardian spirit, Ariel, who,
From life to life, must still pursue
Your happiness;—for thus alone 15
Can Ariel ever find his own.
From Prospero's enchanted cell,
As the mighty verses tell,
To the throne of Naples, he
Lit you o'er the trackless sea, 20
Flitting on, your prow before,
Like a living meteor.
When you die, the silent Moon,
In her interlunar swoon,
Is not sadder in her cell 25
Than deserted Ariel.
When you live again on earth,
Like an unseen star of birth,
Ariel guides you o'er the sea
Of life from your nativity. 30
Many changes have been run,
Since Ferdinand and you begun
Your course of love, and Ariel still
Has tracked your steps, and served your
will;

Now, in humbler, happier lot, 35
This is all remembered not;
And now, alas! the poor sprite is
Imprisoned, for some fault of his,
In a body like a grave;—
From you he only dares to crave, 40
For his service and his sorrow,
A smile to-day, a song to-morrow.

The artist who this idol wrought,
To echo all harmonious thought,
Felled a tree, while on the steep 45
The woods were in their winter sleep,
Rocked in that repose divine
On the wind-swept Apennine;
And dreaming, some of Autumn past,
And some of Spring approaching fast, 50
And some of April buds and showers,
And some of songs in July bowers,
And all of love; and so this tree,—
Oh, that such our death may be!—
Died in sleep, and felt no pain, 55
To live in happier form again:
From which, beneath Heaven's fairest
star,
The artist wrought this loved Guitar,
And taught it justly to reply,
To all who question skilfully, 60
In language gentle as thine own;
Whispering in enamored tone
Sweet oracles of woods and dells,
And summer winds in sylvan cells;
For it had learned all harmonies 65
Of the plains and of the skies,
Of the forests and the mountains,
And the many-voiced fountains;
The clearest echoes of the hills,
The softest notes of falling rills, 70
The melodies of birds and bees,
The murmuring of summer seas,
And pattering rain, and breathing dew,
And airs of evening; and it knew
That seldom-heard mysterious sound, 75
Which, driven on its diurnal round,
As it floats through boundless day,
Our world enkindles on its way—
All this it knows, but will not tell
To those who cannot question well 80
The spirit that inhabits it;
It talks according to the wit
Of its companions; and no more
Is heard than has been felt before,
By those who tempt it to betray 85
These secrets of an elder day:

But sweetly as its answers will
 Flatter hands of perfect skill,
 It keeps its highest, holiest tone
 For our beloved Jane alone. 90

JOHN KEATS (1795-1821)

From SLEEP AND POETRY

Is there so small a range
 In the present strength of manhood, that
 the high
 Imagination cannot freely fly
 As she was wont of old? prepare her steeds,
 Paw up against the light, and do strange
 deeds 5
 Upon the clouds? Has she not shown us
 all?
 From the clear space of ether, to the small
 Breath of new buds unfolding? From
 the meaning
 Of Jove's large eyebrow, to the tender
 greening 9
 Of April meadows? Here her altar shone,
 E'en in this isle; and who could paragon
 The fervid choir that lifted up a noise
 Of harmony, to where it aye will poise
 Its mighty self of convoluting sound,
 Huge as a planet, and like that roll round,
 Eternally around a dizzy void? 16
 Ay, in those days the muses were nigh
 cloyed
 With honors; nor had any other care
 Than to sing out and soothe their wavy
 hair.
 Could all this be forgotten? Yes, a
 schism 20
 Nurtured by foppery and barbarism,
 Made great Apollo blush for this his land.
 Men were thought wise who could not
 understand
 His glories; with a puling infant's force
 They swayed about upon a rocking-horse,
 And thought it Pegasus. Ah, dismal-
 souled! 26
 The winds of heaven blew, the ocean
 rolled
 Its gathering waves—ye felt it not. The
 blue
 Bared its eternal bosom, and the dew
 Of summer nights collected still to make 30
 The morning precious: beauty was awake!

Why were ye not awake? But ye were
 dead
 To things ye knew not of,—were closely
 wed
 To musty laws lined out with wretched
 rule
 And compass vile: so that ye taught a
 school 35
 Of dolts to smooth, inlay, and clip, and fit,
 Till, like the certain wands of Jacob's wit,
 Their verses tallied. Easy was the task:
 A thousand handicraftsmen wore the
 mask
 Of Poesy. Ill-fated, impious race! 40
 That blasphemed the bright Lyrist to
 his face,
 And did not know it,—no, they went
 about,
 Holding a poor, decrepit standard out,
 Marked with most flimsy mottoes, and in
 large
 The name of one Boileau! 45

From ENDYMION, BOOK I

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
 Its loveliness increases; it will never
 Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet
 breathing. 5
 Therefore, on every morrow, are we
 wreathing
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman
 dearth
 Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened
 ways 10
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of
 all,
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
 From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the
 moon,
 Trees old and young, sprouting a shady
 boon
 For simple sheep: and such are daffodils 15
 With the green world they live in; and
 clear rills
 That for themselves a cooling covert make
 'Gainst the hot season; the mid-forest
 brake,

Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose
blooms:

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead; ²¹
All lovely tales that we have heard or
read:

An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

Nor do we merely feel these essences ²⁵
For one short hour; no, even as the trees
That whisper round a temple become soon
Dear as the temple's self, so does the moon,
The passion poesy, glories infinite,
Haunt us till they become a cheering light
Unto our souls, and bound to us so fast, ³¹
That, whether there be shine, or gloom
o'ercast,

They always must be with us, or we die.

Therefore, 'tis with full happiness that I
Will trace the story of Endymion. ³⁵

The very music of the name has gone
Into my being, and each pleasant scene
Is growing fresh before me as the green
Of our own valleys: so I will begin
Now while I cannot hear the city's din; ⁴⁰
Now while the early budders are just new,
And run in mazes of the youngest hue
About old forests; while the willow trails
Its delicate amber; and the dairy pails
Bring home increase of milk. And, as the
year ⁴⁵

Grows lush in juicy stalks, I'll smoothly
steer

My little boat, for many quiet hours,
With streams that deepen freshly into
bowers.

Many and many a verse I hope to write,
Before the daisies, vermeil rimmed and
white, ⁵⁰

Hide in deep herbage; and ere yet the bees
Hum about globes of clover and sweet
peas,

I must be near the middle of my story.

O may no wintry season, bare and hoary,
See it half finished: but let Autumn bold, ⁵⁵
With universal tinge of sober gold,
Be all about me when I make an end.

And now at once, adventuresome, I send
My herald thought into a wilderness:
There let its trumpet blow, and quickly
dress ⁶⁰

My uncertain path with green, that I
may speed

Easily onward, thorough flowers and weed.

LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
Alone and palely loitering?
The sedge has withered from the lake,
And no birds sing.

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms, ⁵
So haggard and so woe-begone?
The squirrel's granary is full,
And the harvest's done.

I see a lily on thy brow
With anguish moist and fever dew; ¹⁰
And on thy cheeks a fading rose
Fast withereth too.

"I met a lady in the meads,
Full beautiful—a faery's child;
Her hair was long, her foot was light, ¹⁵
And her eyes were wild.

"I made a garland for her head,
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;¹
She looked at me as she did love,
And made sweet moan. ²⁰

"I set her on my pacing steed,
And nothing else saw all day long;
For sideways would she lean, and sing
A faery's song.

"She found me roots of relish sweet, ²⁵
And honey wild, and manna-dew,
And sure in language strange she said—
'I love thee true.'

"She took me to her elfin grot,
And there she wept, and sighed full sore,³⁰
And there I shut her wild, wild eyes,
With kisses four.

"And there she lullèd me asleep,
And there I dreamed—ah! woe betide!—
The latest dream I ever dreamed ³⁵
On the cold hill's side.

"I saw pale kings and princes too,
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all,
Who cried—'La Belle Dame sans Merci
Hath thee in thrall!'

¹ girdle.

"I saw their starved lips in the gloam,
With horrid warning gapèd wide;
And I awoke, and found me here
On the cold hill's side.

"And this is why I sojourn here, 45
Alone and palely loitering,
Though the sedge is withered from the lake,
And no birds sing."

ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE

My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness
pains

My sense, as though of hemlock I had
drunk,
Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains
One minute past, and Lethe-wards had
sunk:

'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot, 5
But being too happy in thine happi-
ness,—

That thou, light-wingèd Dryad of the
trees,

In some melodious plot
Of beechen green, and shadows number-
less,

Singest of summer in full-throated
ease. 10

O for a draught of vintage! that hath been
Cooled a long age in the deep-delvèd
earth,

Tasting of Flora and the country green,
Dance, and Provençal song, and sun-
burnt mirth!

O for a beaker full of the warm South, 15
Full of the true, the blushful Hippo-
crene,

With beaded bubbles winking at the
brim,

And purple-stainèd mouth;
That I might drink, and leave the world
unseen,

And with thee fade away into the
forest dim: 20

Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget
What thou among the leaves has never
known,

The weariness, the fever, and the fret
Here, where men sit and hear each other
groan:

Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last grey
hairs, 25

Where youth grows pale, and spectre-
thin, and dies;

Where but to think is to be full of
sorrow

And leaden-eyed despairs,

Where Beauty cannot keep her lustrous
eyes,

Or new Love pine at them beyond to-
morrow. 30

Away! away! for I will fly to thee,
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,¹

But on the viewless² wings of Poesy,
Though the dull brain perplexes and
retards:

Already with thee! tender is the night, 35
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her
throne,

Clustered around by all her starry
Fays;

But here there is no light,
Save what from heaven is with the
breezes blown

Through verdurous glooms and wind-
ing mossy ways. 40

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,
Nor what soft incense hangs upon the
boughs,

But, in embalmèd darkness, guess each
sweet

Wherewith the seasonable month en-
dows

The grass, the thicket, and the fruit-tree
wild; 45

White hawthorn, and the pastoral
eglantine;

Fast fading violets covered up in
leaves;

And mid-May's eldest child,

The coming musk-rose, full of dewy
wine,

The murmurous haunt of flies on
summer eves. 50

Darling I listen; and, for many a time
I have been half in love with easeful
Death,

Called him soft names in many a musèd
rhyme,

To take into the air my quiet breath;

¹ leopards.

² invisible.

Now more than ever seems it rich to die, 55
 To cease upon the midnight with no
 pain,
 While thou art pouring forth thy soul
 abroad
 In such an ecstasy!
 Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears
 in vain—
 To thy high requiem become a sod. 60

Thou wast not born for death, immortal
 Bird!

No hungry generations tread thee down;
 The voice I hear this passing night was
 heard

In ancient days by emperor and clown:
 Perhaps the self-same song that found a
 path 65

Through the sad heart of Ruth, when,
 sick for home,

She stood in tears amid the alien corn;
 The same that oft-times hath

Charmed magic casements, opening on
 the foam

Of perilous seas, in faery lands for-
 lorn. 70

Forlorn! the very word is like a bell
 To toll me back from thee to my sole self!

Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well
 As she is famed to do, deceiving elf.

Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades 75
 Past the near meadows, over the still
 stream,

Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried
 deep

In the next valley-glades:
 Was it a vision, or a waking dream?

Fled is that music:—Do I wake or
 sleep? 80

ODE ON A GRECIAN URN

Thou still unravished bride of quietness,
 Thou foster-child of silence and slow
 time,

Sylvan historian, who canst thus express
 A flowery tale more sweetly than our
 rhyme:

What leaf-fringed legend haunts about thy
 shape 5

Of deities or mortals, or of both,
 In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?

What men or gods are these? What
 maidens loth?

What mad pursuit? What struggle to
 escape?

What pipes and timbrels? What
 wild ecstasy? 10

Heard melodies are sweet, but those un-
 heard

Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes,
 play on;

Not to the sensual ear, but, more endeared,
 Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:

Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst
 not leave 15

Thy song, nor ever can those trees be
 bare;

Bold Lover, never, never canst thou
 kiss,

Though winning near the goal—yet, do
 not grieve;

She cannot fade, though thou hast not
 thy bliss,

Forever wilt thou love, and she be
 fair! 20

Ah, happy, happy boughs! that cannot shed
 Your leaves, nor ever bid the Spring
 adieu:

And, happy melodist, unwearied,
 Forever piping songs forever new;

More happy love! more happy, happy
 love! 25

Forever warm and still to be enjoyed,
 Forever panting, and forever young;

All breathing human passion far above,
 That leaves a heart high-sorrowful and
 cloyed,

A burning forehead, and a parching
 tongue. 30

Who are these coming to the sacrifice?

To what green altar, O mysterious priest,
 Lead'st thou that heifer lowing at the skies,
 And all her silken flanks with garlands
 dressed?

What little town by river or sea shore, 35
 Or mountain-built with peaceful citadel,

Is emptied of this folk, this pious
 morn?

And, little town, thy streets for evermore
 Will silent be; and not a soul to tell

Why thou art desolate, can e'er re-
 turn. 40

O Attic shape! Fair attitude! with brede¹
 Of marble men and maidens over-
 wrought,
 With forest branches and the trodden
 weed;
 Thou, silent form, dost tease us out of
 thought
 As doth eternity: Cold Pastoral! 45
 When old age shall this generation
 waste,
 Thou shalt remain, in midst of other
 woe
 Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou
 say'st,
 "Beauty is truth, truth beauty,"—that
 is all
 Ye know on earth, and all ye need to
 know. 50

ODE ON MELANCHOLY

No, no! go not to Lethe, neither twist
 Wolf's-bane, tight-rooted, for its poison-
 ous wine;
 Nor suffer thy pale forehead to be kissed
 By nightshade, ruby grape of Proser-
 pine;
 Make not your rosary of yew-berries, 5
 Nor let the beetle, nor the death-moth
 be
 Your mournful Psyche, nor the
 downy owl
 A partner in your sorrow's mysteries;
 For shade to shade will come too
 drowsily,
 And drown the wakeful anguish of the
 soul. 10

But when the melancholy fit shall fall
 Sudden from heaven like a weeping
 cloud,
 That fosters the droop-headed flowers all,
 And hides the green hills in an April
 shroud;
 Then glut thy sorrow on a morning rose, 15
 Or on the rainbow of the salt-sand wave,
 Or on the wealth of globèd peonies;
 Or if thy mistress some rich anger shows,
 Emprison her soft hand, and let her
 rave,
 And feed deep, deep upon her peer-
 less eyes. 20

¹ embroidery.

She dwells with Beauty—Beauty that
 must die;
 And Joy, whose hand is ever at his
 lips
 Bidding adieu; and aching Pleasure
 • nigh,
 Turning to poison while the bee-mouth
 sips:
 Ay, in the very temple of Delight 25
 Veiled Melancholy has her sovran
 shrine,
 Though seen of none save him whose
 strenuous tongue
 Can burst Joy's grape against his palate
 fine:
 His soul shall taste the sadness of her
 might,
 And be among her cloudy trophies
 hung. 30

TO AUTUMN

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the
 thatch-eaves run;
 To bend with apples the mossed cottage-
 trees, 5
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the
 core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the
 hazel shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the
 bees,
 Until they think warm days will never
 cease, 10
 For Summer has o'er-brimmed their
 clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy
 store?
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may
 find
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing
 wind; 15
 Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
 Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while
 thy hook
 Spares the next swath and all its
 twined flowers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
 Steady thy laden head across a brook; 20
 Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
 Thou watchest the last oozy hours
 by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where
 are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music
 too,—

While barrèd clouds bloom the soft-dying
 day, 25

And touch the stubble-plains with rosy
 hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats
 mourn

Among the river shallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or
 dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from
 hilly bourn; 30

Hedge-cricket sing; and now with
 treble soft

The red-breast whistles from a garden-
 croft;

And gathering swallows twitter in the
 skies.

LINES ON THE MERMAID TAVERN

Souls of Poets dead and gone,
 What Elysium have ye known,
 Happy field or mossy cavern,
 Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?
 Have ye tippled drink more fine 5
 Than mine host's Canary wine?
 Or are fruits of Paradise
 Sweeter than those dainty pies
 Of venison? O generous food!
 Dressed as though bold Robin Hood 10
 Would, with his maid Marian,
 Sup and bowse from horn and can.

I have heard that on a day
 Mine host's sign-board flew away,
 Nobody knew whither, till 15
 An astrologer's old quill
 To a sheepskin gave the story,
 Said he saw you in your glory,
 Underneath a new-old sign
 Sipping beverage divine, 20
 And pledging with contented smack
 The Mermaid in the Zodiac.

Souls of Poets dead and gone,
 What Elysium have ye known,
 Happy field or mossy cavern, 25
 Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?

ROBIN HOOD

No! those days are gone away,
 And their hours are old and gray,
 And their minutes buried all
 Under the down-trodden pall
 Of the leaves of many years: 5
 Many times have winter's shears,
 Frozen North, and chilling East,
 Sounded tempests to the feast
 Of the forest's whispering fleeces,
 Since men knew nor rent nor leases. 10

No, the bugle sounds no more,
 And the twanging bow no more;
 Silent is the ivory shrill
 Past the heath and up the hill;
 There is no mid-forest laugh, 15
 Where lone Echo gives the half
 To some wight, amazed to hear
 Jest, deep in forest drear.

On the fairest time of June
 You may go, with sun or moon, 20
 Or the seven stars to light you,
 Or the polar ray to right you;
 But you never may behold
 Little John, or Robin bold;
 Never one, of all the clan, 25
 Thrumming on an empty can
 Some old hunting ditty, while
 He doth his green way beguile
 To fair hostess Merriment,
 Down beside the pasture Trent; 30
 For he left the merry tale
 Messenger for spicy ale.

Gone, the merry morris din;
 Gone, the song of Gamelyn;
 Gone, the tough-belted outlaw 35
 Idling in the "grenè shave";
 All are gone away and past!
 And if Robin should be cast
 Sudden from his turfèd grave,
 And if Marian should have 40
 Once again her forest days,
 She would weep, and he would craze:

He would swear, for all his oaks,
 Fallen beneath the dockyard strokes,
 Have rotted on the briny seas; 45
 She would weep that her wild bees
 Sang not to her—strange! that honey
 Can't be got without hard money!

So it is: yet let us sing,
 Honor to the old bow-string! 50
 Honor to the bugle-horn!
 Honor to the woods unshorn!
 Honor to the Lincoln green!
 Honor to the archer keen!
 Honor to tight Little John, 55
 And the horse he rode upon!
 Honor to bold Robin Hood,
 Sleeping in the underwood!
 Honor to Maid Marian,
 And to all the Sherwood-clan! 60
 Though their days have hurried by,
 Let us two a burden¹ try.

THE EVE OF ST. AGNES

St. Agnes' Eve—Ah, bitter chill it was!
 The owl, for all his feathers, was a-cold;
 The hare limped trembling through the
 frozen grass,
 And silent was the flock in woolly fold:
 Numb were the Beadsman's fingers,
 while he told 5
 His rosary, and while his frosted breath,
 Like pious incense from a censer old,
 Seemed taking flight for heaven, with-
 out a death,
 Past the sweet Virgin's picture, while his
 prayer he saith.
 His prayer he saith, this patient, holy
 man; 10
 Then takes his lamp, and riseth from
 his knees,
 And back returneth, meagre, barefoot,
 wan,
 Along the chapel aisle by slow degrees:
 The sculptured dead, on each side, seem
 to freeze,
 Emprisoned in black, purgatorial rails:
 Knights, ladies, praying in dumb or-
 at'ries, 16
 He passeth by; and his weak spirit fails
 To think how they may ache in icy hoods
 and mails.

¹ chorus.

Northward he turneth through a little
 door,
 And scarce three steps, ere Music's
 golden tongue 20
 Flattered to tears this aged man and
 poor;
 But no—already had his deathbell
 rung;
 The joys of all his life were said and
 sung:
 His was harsh penance on St. Agnes'
 Eve:
 Another way he went, and soon among 25
 Rough ashes sat he for his soul's re-
 prieve,
 And all night kept awake, for sinners' sake
 to grieve.

That ancient Beadsman heard the pre-
 lude soft;
 And so it chanced, for many a door was
 wide,
 From hurry to and fro. Soon, up aloft,
 The silver, snarling trumpets 'gan to
 chide: 31
 The level chambers, ready with their
 pride,
 Were glowing to receive a thousand
 guests:
 The carved angels, ever eager-eyed,
 Stared, where upon their heads the
 cornice rests, 35
 With hair blown back, and wings put
 crosswise on their breasts.

At length burst in the argent revelry,
 With plume, tiara, and all rich array,
 Numerous as shadows haunting fairily
 The brain, new stuffed, in youth, with
 triumphs gay 40
 Of old romance. These let us wish
 away,
 And turn, sole-thoughted, to one Lady
 there,
 Whose heart had brooded, all that win-
 try day,
 On love, and winged St. Agnes' saintly
 care,
 As she had heard old dames full many
 times declare. 45

They told her how, upon St. Agnes' Eve,
 Young virgins might have visions of
 delight,

And soft adorings from their loves receive
 Upon the honeyed middle of the night,
 If ceremonies due they did aright: 50
 As, supperless to bed they must retire,
 And couch supine their beauties, lily
 white;
 Nor look behind, nor sideways, but
 require
 Of Heaven with upward eyes for all that
 they desire.

Full of this whim was thoughtful Madeline:
 The music, yearning like a God in 55
 pain,
 She scarcely heard: her maiden eyes
 divine,
 Fixed on the floor, saw many a sweeping
 train
 Pass by—she heeded not at all: in vain
 Came many a tiptoe, amorous cavalier,
 And back retired; not cooled by high
 disdain, 61
 But she saw not: her heart was other-
 where:
 She sighed for Agnes' dreams, the sweetest
 of the year.

She danced along with vague, regardless
 eyes,
 Anxious her lips, her breathing quick
 and short: 65
 The hallowed hour was near at hand:
 she sighs
 Amid the timbrels, and the thronged
 resort
 Of whisperers in anger, or in sport;
 'Mid looks of love, defiance, hate, and
 scorn,
 Hoodwinked with faery fancy; all
 amort,¹ 70
 Save to St. Agnes and her lambs un-
 shorn,
 And all the bliss to be before to-morrow
 morn.

So, purposing each moment to retire,
 She lingered still. Meantime, across the
 moors,
 Had come young Porphyro, with heart
 on fire 75
 For Madeline. Beside the portal doors,

¹ deadened.

Buttressed from moonlight, stands he,
 and implores
 All saints to give him sight of Madeline,
 But for one moment in the tedious hours,
 That he might gaze and worship all un-
 seen; 80
 Perchance speak, kneel, touch, kiss—in
 sooth such things have been.

He ventures in: let no buzzed whisper
 tell:
 All eyes be muffled, or a hundred swords
 Will storm his heart, Love's fev'rous
 citadel:
 For him, those chambers held bar-
 barian hordes, 85
 Hyena foemen, and hot-blooded lords,
 Whose very dogs would execrations howl
 Against his lineage: not one breast
 affords
 Him any mercy, in that mansion foul,
 Save one old beldame, weak in body and
 in soul. 90

Ah, happy chance! the aged creature
 came,
 Shuffling along with ivory-headed wand,
 To where he stood, hid from the torch's
 flame,
 Behind a broad hall-pillar, far beyond
 The sound of merriment and chorus
 bland: 95
 He startled her; but soon she knew his
 face,
 And grasped his fingers in her palsied
 hand,
 Saying, "Mercy, Porphyro! hie thee
 from this place;
 They are all here to-night, the whole
 bloodthirsty race!

"Get hence! get hence! there's dwarfish
 Hildebrand; 100

He had a fever late, and in the fit
 He cursèd thee and thine, both house
 and land:

Then there's that old Lord Maurice, not
 a whit

More tame for his gray hairs—Alas me!
 flit!

Flit like a ghost away."—"Ah, Gossip
 dear, 105

We're safe enough; here in this arm-
 chair sit,

And tell me how"—"Good Saints! not here, not here;
Follow me, child, or else these stones will be thy bier."

He followed through a lowly archèd way,
Brushing the cobwebs with his lofty plume;
And as she muttered "Well-a-day!"
He found him in a little moonlight room,
Pale, latticed, chill, and silent as a tomb.
"Now tell me where is Madeline," said he,
"O tell me, Angela, by the holy loom 115
Which none but secret sisterhood may see,
When they St. Agnes' wool are weaving piously."

"St. Agnes! Ah! it is St. Agnes' Eve—
Yet men will murder upon holy days:
Thou must hold water in a witch's sieve,
And be liege-lord of all the Elves and Fays,
To venture so: it fills me with amaze
To see thee, Porphyro!—St. Agnes' Eve!
God's help! my lady fair the conjurer plays
This very night: good angels her deceive!
But let me laugh awhile, I've mickle time to grieve."

Feebly she laugheth in the languid moon,
While Porphyro upon her face doth look,
Like puzzled urchin on an aged crone
Who keepeth closed a wond'rous riddle-book,
As spectaclèd she sits in chimney nook.
But soon his eyes grew brilliant, when she told
His lady's purpose; and he scarce could brook¹
Tears, at the thought of those enchantments cold,
And Madeline asleep in lap of legends old.

¹ check.

Sudden a thought came like a full-blown rose,
Flushing his brow, and in his pained heart
Made purple riot: then doth he propose
A stratagem, that makes the beldame start:
"A cruel man and impious thou art: 140
Sweet lady, let her pray, and sleep, and dream
Alone with her good angels, far apart
From wicked men like thee. Go, go!—
I deem
Thou canst not surely be the same that thou didst seem."

"I will not harm her, by all saints I swear,"
Quoth Porphyro: "O may I ne'er find grace 145
When my weak voice shall whisper its last prayer,
If one of her soft ringlets I displace,
Or look with ruffian passion in her face:
Good Angela, believe me by these tears;
Or I will, even in a moment's space, 151
Awake, with horrid shout, my foemen's ears,
And beard them, though they be more fanged than wolves and bears."

"Ah! why wilt thou affright a feeble soul?
A poor, weak, palsy-stricken, church-yard thing,—
Whose passing-bell may ere the mid-night toll;
Whose prayers for thee, each morn and evening,
Were never missed."—Thus plaining, doth she bring
A gentler speech from burning Porphyro;
So woeful, and of such deep sorrowing,
That Angela gives promise she will do
Whatever he shall wish, betide her weal or woe.

Which was, to lead him, in close secrecy,
Even to Madeline's chamber, and there hide
Him in a closet, of such privacy 165
That he might see her beauty unespied,

And win perhaps that night a peerless
bride,
While legioned fairies paced the cover-
let,
And pale enchantment held her sleepy-
eyed.
Never on such a night have lovers
met, 170
Since Merlin paid his Demon all the mon-
strous debt.

"It shall be as thou wishest," said the
dame:
"All cates and dainties shall be storèd
there
Quickly on this feast-night: by the
tambour frame
Her own lute thou wilt see: no time to
spare, 175
For I am slow and feeble, and scarce
dare
On such a catering trust my dizzy head.
Wait here, my child, with patience;
kneel in prayer
The while. Ah! thou must needs the
lady wed,
Or may I never leave my grave among
the dead." 180

So saying, she hobbled off with busy
fear.
The lover's endless minutes slowly
passed;
The dame returned, and whispered in
his ear
To follow her; with agèd eyes aghast
From fright of dim espial. Safe at
last, 185
Through many a dusky gallery, they
gain
The maiden's chamber, silken, hushed,
and chaste;
Where Porphyro took covert, pleased
amain.
His poor guide hurried back with agues in
her brain.

Her falt'ring hand upon the balustrade,
Old Angela was feeling for the stair, 191
When Madeline, St. Agnes' charmèd
maid,
Rose, like a missioned spirit, unaware:
With silver taper's light, and pious
care,

She turned, and down the agèd gossip
led 195
To a safe level matting. Now prepare,
Young Porphyro, for gazing on that bed;
She comes, she comes again, like ring-dove
frayed¹ and fled.

Out went the taper as she hurried in;
Its little smoke, in pallid moonshine,
died: 200
She closed the door, she panted, all akin
To spirits of the air, and visions wide:
No uttered syllable, or, woe betide!
But to her heart, her heart was voluble,
Paining with eloquence her balmy side;
As though a tongueless nightingale
should swell 206
Her throat in vain, and die, heart-stifled,
in her dell.

A casement high and triple-arched there
was,
All garlanded with carven imag'ries
Of fruits, and flowers, and bunches of
knot-grass, 210
And diamonded with panes of quaint
device,
Innumerable of stains and splendid dyes,
As are the tiger-moth's deep-damasked
wings;
And in the midst, 'mong thousand
heraldries,
And twilight saints, and dim em-
blazonings, 215
A shielded scutcheon blushed with blood
of queens and kings.

Full on this casement shone the wintry
moon,
And threw warm gules² on Madeline's
fair breast,
As down she knelt for heaven's grace and
boon;
Rose-bloom fell on her hands, together
pressed, 220
And on her silver cross soft amethyst,
And on her hair a glory, like a saint:
She seemed a splendid angel, newly
dressed,
Save wings, for heaven:—Porphyro grew
faint:
She knelt, so pure a thing, so free from
mortal taint. 225

¹ frightened.² red.

Anon his heart revives: her vespers
 done,
 Of all its wreathèd pearls her hair she
 frees;
 Unclass her warmèd jewels one by one;
 Loosens her fragrant bodice; by degrees
 Her rich attire creeps rustling to her
 knees: ²³⁰
 Half-hidden, like a mermaid in sea-
 weed,
 Pensive awhile she dreams awake, and
 sees,
 In fancy, fair St. Agnes in her bed,
 But dares not look behind, or all the
 charm is fled.

Soon, trembling in her soft and chilly
 nest, ²³⁵
 In sort of wakeful swoon, perplexed
 she lay,
 Until the poppièd warmth of sleep
 oppressed
 Her soothèd limbs, and soul fatigued
 away;
 Flown, like a thought, until the mor-
 row-day;
 Blissfully havened both from joy and
 pain; ²⁴⁰
 Claspèd like a missal where swart¹
 Paynims pray;
 Blindèd alike from sunshine and from
 rain,
 As though a rose should shut, and be a
 bud again.

Stol'n to this paradise, and so en-
 tranced,
 Porphyro gazed upon her empty dress,
 And listened to her breathing, if it
 chanced ²⁴⁶
 To wake into a slumberous tenderness;
 Which when he heard, that minute did
 he bless,
 And breathed himself: then from the
 closet crept,
 Noiseless as fear in a wide wilderness, ²⁵⁰
 And over the hushed carpet, silent,
 stepped,
 And 'tween the curtains peeped, where,
 lo!—how fast she slept.

Then by the bedside, where the faded
 moon
 Made a dim, silver twilight, soft he set

¹ black.

A table, and, half anguished, threw
 thereon ²⁵⁵
 A cloth of woven crimson, gold, and
 jet:—
 O for some drowsy Morphean amulet!
 The boisterous, midnight, festive clar-
 ion,
 The kettle-drum, and far-heard clar-
 ionet,
 Affray his ears, though but in dying
 tone:— ²⁶⁰
 The hall door shuts again, and all the noise
 is gone.

And still she slept an azure-lidded sleep,
 In blanchèd linen, smooth, and lav-
 endered,
 While he from forth the closet brought
 a heap
 Of candied apple, quince, and plum, and
 gourd; ²⁶⁵
 With jellies soother than the creamy
 curd,
 And lucent syrups, tinct with cinnamon;
 Manna and dates, in argosy transferred
 From Fez; and spicèd dainties, every
 one,
 From silken Samarcand to cedared Leb-
 anon. ²⁷⁰

These delicacies he heaped with glowing
 hand
 On golden dishes and in baskets bright
 Of wreathèd silver: sumptuous they
 stand
 In the retired quiet of the night,
 Filling the chilly room with perfume
 light.— ²⁷⁵
 "And now, my love, my seraph fair,
 awake!
 Thou art my heaven, and I thine
 eremite:
 Open thine eyes, for meek St. Agnes'
 sake,
 Or I shall drowse beside thee, so my soul
 doth ache."

Thus whispering, his warm, unnervèd
 arm ²⁸⁰
 Sank in her pillow. Shaded was her
 dream
 By the dusk curtains:—'twas a mid-
 night charm
 Impossible to melt as icèd stream:

The lustrous salvers in the moonlight
gleam;
Broad golden fringe upon the carpet
lies: 285
It seemed he never, never could re-
deem
From such a steadfast spell his lady's
eyes;
So mused awhile, entailed in woofed
phantasies.

Awakening up, he took her hollow lute,—
Tumultuous,—and, in chords that ten-
derest be, 290
He played an ancient ditty, long since
mute,
In Provence called, “La belle dame sans
merci,”
Close to her ear touching the melody;—
Wherewith disturbed she uttered a soft
moan:
He ceased—she panted quick—and
suddenly 295
Her blue affrayed eyes wide open
shone:
Upon his knees he sank, pale as smooth-
sculptured stone.

Her eyes were open, but she still be-
held,
Now wide awake, the vision of her
sleep:
There was a painful change, that nigh
expelled 300
The blisses of her dream so pure and
deep,
At which fair Madeline began to weep,
And moan forth witless words with
many a sigh;
While still her gaze on Porphyro would
keep;
Who knelt, with joined hands and
piteous eye, 305
Fearing to move or speak, she looked so
dreamingly.

“Ah, Porphyro!” said she, “but even
now
Thy voice was at sweet tremble in mine
ear,
Made tunable with every sweetest
vow;
And those sad eyes were spiritual and
clear: 310

How changed thou art! how pallid,
chill, and drear!
Give me that voice again, my Porphyro,
Those looks immortal, those complain-
ings dear!
Oh leave me not in this eternal woe,
For if thou diest, my Love, I know not
where to go.” 315

Beyond a mortal man impassioned far
At these voluptuous accents, he arose,
Ethereal, flushed, and like a throbbing
star
Seen 'mid the sapphire heaven's deep
repose;
Into her dream he melted, as the rose 320
Blendeth its odor with the violet,—
Solution sweet: meantime the frost-
wind blows
Like Love's alarum, pattering the sharp
sleet
Against the window-panes; St. Agnes'
moon hath set.

'Tis dark: quick pattereth the flaw-
blown sleet: 325
“This is no dream, my bride, my
Madeline!”
'Tis dark: the icèd gusts still rave and
beat:
“No dream, alas! alas! and woe is mine!
Porphyro will leave me here to fade and
pine.—
Cruel! what traitor could thee hither
bring? 330
I curse not, for my heart is lost in thine,
Though thou forsakest a deceived
thing;—
A dove forlorn and lost with sick un-
pruned wing.”

“My Madeline! sweet dreamer! lovely
bride!
Say, may I be for aye thy vassal blest?
Thy beauty's shield, heart-shaped and
vermeil dyed? 336
Ah, silver shrine, here will I take my rest
After so many hours of toil and quest,
A famished pilgrim,—saved by miracle.
Though I have found, I will not rob thy
nest 340
Saving of thy sweet self; if thou think'st
well
To trust, fair Madeline, to no rude infidel.

"Hark! 'tis an elfin-storm from faery
land,
Of haggard seeming, but a boon indeed:
Arise—arise! the morning is at hand;—
The bloated wassailers will never
heed:—³⁴⁶
Let us away, my love, with happy
speed;
There are no ears to hear, or eyes to
see,—
Drowned all in Rhenish and the sleepy
mead:
Awake! arise! my love, and fearless be,
For o'er the southern moors I have a
home for thee."³⁵¹

She hurried at his words, beset with
fears,
For there were sleeping dragons all
around,
At glaring watch, perhaps, with ready
spears—
Down the wide stairs a darkling way
they found.—³⁵⁵
In all the house was heard no human
sound.
A chain-drooped lamp was flickering by
each door;
The arras, rich with horseman, hawk,
and hound,
Fluttered in the besieging wind's up-
roar;
And the long carpets rose along the gusty
floor.³⁶⁰

They glide, like phantoms, into the
wide hall;
Like phantoms, to the iron porch they
glide;
Where lay the Porter, in uneasy sprawl,
With a huge empty flagon by his side:
The wakeful bloodhound rose, and
shook his hide,³⁶⁵
But his sagacious eye an inmate owns:
By one, and one, the bolts full easy
slide:—
The chains lie silent on the footworn
stones;—
The key turns, and the door upon its
hinges groans.

And they are gone: ay, ages long
ago³⁷⁰
These lovers fled away into the storm.

That night the Baron dreamt of many
a woe,
And all his warrior-guests, with shade
and form
Of witch, and demon, and large coffin-
worm,
Were long be-nightmared. Angela the
old³⁷⁵
Died palsy-twitched, with meagre face
deform;
The Beadsman, after thousand avès
told,
For aye unsought for slept among his
ashes cold.

HYPERION

A FRAGMENT

BOOK I

Deep in the shady sadness of a vale
Far sunken from the healthy breath of
morn,
Far from the fiery noon, and eve's one
star,
Sat gray-haired Saturn, quiet as a stone,
Still as the silence round about his lair; 5
Forest on forest hung about his head
Like cloud on cloud. No stir of air was
there,
Not so much life as on a summer's day
Robs not one light seed from the feathered
grass,
But where the dead leaf fell, there did it
rest.¹⁰
A stream went voiceless by, still deadened
more
By reason of his fallen divinity
Spreading a shade: the Naiad 'mid her
reeds
Pressed her cold finger closer to her lips.
Along the margin-sand large footmarks
went,¹⁵
No further than to where his feet had
strayed,
And slept there since. Upon the sodden
ground
His old right hand lay nerveless, listless,
dead,
Unscattered; and his realmless eyes were
closed;
While his bowed head seemed listening to
the Earth,²⁰
His ancient mother, for some comfort yet.

It seemed no force could wake him from
 his place;
 But there came one, who with a kindred
 hand
 Touched his wide shoulders, after bending
 low
 With reverence, though to one who knew it
 not. 25
 She was a Goddess of the infant world;
 By her in stature the tall Amazon
 Had stood a pigmy's height: she would
 have ta'en
 Achilles by the hair and bent his neck;
 Or with a finger stayed Ixion's wheel. 30
 Her face was large as that of Memphian
 sphinx,
 Pedestaled haply in a palace court,
 When sages looked to Egypt for their lore.
 But oh! how unlike marble was that face;
 How beautiful, if sorrow had not made 35
 Sorrow more beautiful than Beauty's self.
 There was a listening fear in her regard,
 As if calamity had but begun;
 As if the vanward clouds of evil days
 Had spent their malice, and the sullen
 rear 40
 Was with its storèd thunder laboring up.
 One hand she pressed upon that aching
 spot
 Where beats the human heart, as if just
 there,
 Though an immortal, she felt cruel pain;
 The other upon Saturn's bended neck 45
 She laid, and to the level of his ear
 Leaning with parted lips, some words she
 spake
 In solemn tenor and deep organ tone:
 Some mourning words, which in our feeble
 tongue
 Would come in these like accents; oh how
 frail 50
 To that large utterance of the early Gods!
 "Saturn, look up!—though wherefore,
 poor old King?
 I have no comfort for thee, no, not one:
 I cannot say, 'O wherefore sleepest thou?'
 For heaven is parted from thee, and the
 earth 55
 Knows thee not, thus afflicted, for a
 God;
 And ocean too, with all its solemn noise,
 Has from thy scepter passed; and all the
 air
 Is emptied of thine hoary majesty.

Thy thunder, conscious of the new com-
 mand, 60
 Rumbles reluctant o'er our fallen house;
 And thy sharp lightning in unpractised
 hands
 Scorches and burns our once serene do-
 main.
 O aching time! O moments big as years!
 All as ye pass swell out the monstrous
 truth, 65
 And press it so upon our weary griefs
 That unbelief has not a space to breathe.
 Saturn, sleep on:—O thoughtless, why
 did I
 Thus violate thy slumbrous solitude?
 Why should I ope thy melancholy eyes? 70
 Saturn, sleep on! while at thy feet I weep."
 As when, upon a trancèd summer night,
 Those green-robed senators of mighty
 woods,
 Tall oaks, branch-charmèd by the earnest
 stars,
 Dream, and so dream all night without a
 stir, 75
 Save from one gradual solitary gust
 Which comes upon the silence, and dies
 off,
 As if the ebbing air had but one wave:
 So came these words and went; the while
 in tears
 She touched her fair large forehead to the
 ground, 80
 Just where her falling hair might be out-
 spread
 A soft and silken mat for Saturn's feet.
 One moon, with alteration slow, had shed
 Her silver seasons four upon the night,
 And still these two were postured motion-
 less, 85
 Like natural sculpture in cathedral cavern;
 The frozen God still couchant on the
 earth,
 And the sad Goddess weeping at his feet:
 Until at length old Saturn lifted up
 His faded eyes, and saw his kingdom
 gone, 90
 And all the gloom and sorrow of the place,
 And that fair kneeling Goddess; and then
 spake,
 As with a palsied tongue, and while his
 beard
 Shook horrid with such aspen-malady:
 "O tender spouse of gold Hyperion, 95
 Thea, I feel thee ere I see thy face;

Look up, and let me see our doom in it;
 Look up, and tell me if this feeble shape
 Is Saturn's; tell me, if thou hear'st the
 voice

Of Saturn; tell me, if this wrinkling brow,
 Naked and bare of its great diadem, 101
 Peers like the front of Saturn. Who had
 power

To make me desolate? whence came the
 strength?

How was it nurtured to such bursting
 forth,

While Fate seemed strangled in my
 nervous grasp? 105

But it is so; and I am smothered up,
 And buried from all godlike exercise
 Of influence benign on planets pale,
 Of admonitions to the winds, and seas,
 Of peaceful sway above man's harvest-
 ing, 110

And all those acts which Deity supreme
 Doth ease its heart of love in.—I am gone
 Away from my own bosom: I have left
 My strong identity, my real self,
 Somewhere between the throne, and where
 I sit 115

Here on this spot of earth. Search, Thea,
 search!

Open thine eyes eterne, and sphere them
 round

Upon all space: space starred, and lorn of
 light;

Space regioned with life-air; and barren
 void;

Spaces of fire, and all the yawn of hell. 120
 Search, Thea, search! and tell me, if thou
 seest

A certain shape or shadow, making way
 With wings or chariot fierce to repossess
 A heaven he lost erewhile: it must—it
 must

Be of ripe progress—Saturn must be
 King. 125

Yes, there must be a golden victory;
 There must be Gods thrown down, and
 trumpets blown

Of triumph calm, and hymns of festival
 Upon the gold clouds metropolitan,
 Voices of soft proclaim, and silver stir 130
 Of strings in hollow shells; and there
 shall be

Beautiful things made new, for the surprise
 Of the sky-children; I will give com-
 mand:

Thea! Thea! Thea! where is Saturn?"

This passion lifted him upon his feet, 135
 And made his hands to struggle in the air,
 His Druid locks to shake and ooze with
 sweat,

His eyes to fever out, his voice to cease.
 He stood, and heard not Thea's sobbing
 deep; 139

A little time, and then again he snatched
 Utterance thus:—"But cannot I create?
 Cannot I form? Cannot I fashion forth
 Another world, another universe,
 To overbear and crumble this to nought?
 Where is another chaos? Where?"—That
 word 145

Found way unto Olympus, and made
 quake

The rebel three.—Thea was startled up,
 And in her bearing was a sort of hope,
 As thus she quick-voiced spake, yet full of
 awe:

"This cheers our fallen house: come to
 our friends, 150

O Saturn! come away, and give them
 heart;

I know the covert, for thence came I
 hither."

Thus brief; then with beseeching eyes she
 went

With backward footing through the shade
 a space:

He followed, and she turned to lead the
 way 155

Through agèd boughs, that yielded like the
 mist

Which eagles cleave upmounting from
 their nest.

Meanwhile in other realms big tears
 were shed,

More sorrow like to this, and such like woe,
 Too huge for mortal tongue or pen of
 scribe; 160

The Titans fierce, self-hid, or prison-
 bound,

Groaned for the old allegiance once more,
 And listened in sharp pain for Saturn's
 voice.

But one of the whole mammoth-brood still
 kept

His sovereignty, and rule, and majesty; 165
 Blazing Hyperion on his orbèd fire
 Still sat, snuffed the incense, teeming up
 From man to the sun's God; yet un-
 secure:

For as among us mortals omens drear
 Fright and perplex, so also shuddered
 he,— 170
 Not at dog's howl, or gloom-bird's hated
 screech,
 Or the familiar visiting of one
 Upon the first toll of his passing-bell,
 Or prophesyings of the midnight lamp;
 But horrors, portioned to a giant nerve, 175
 Oft made Hyperion ache. His palace
 bright,
 Bastioned with pyramids of glowing gold,
 And touched with shade of bronzed obe-
 lisks,
 Glared a blood-red through all its thou-
 sand courts,
 Arches, and domes, and fiery galleries; 180
 And all its curtains of Aurorian clouds
 Flushed angrily: while sometimes eagle's
 wings,
 Unseen before by Gods or wondering men,
 Darkened the place; and neighing steeds
 were heard,
 Not heard before by Gods or wondering
 men. 185
 Also, when he would taste the spicy
 wreaths
 Of incense, breathed aloft from sacred
 hills,
 Instead of sweets, his ample palate took
 Savor of poisonous brass and metal sick:
 And so, when harbored in the sleepy
 west, 190
 After the full completion of fair day,—
 For rest divine upon exalted couch
 And slumber in the arms of melody,
 He paced away the pleasant hours of ease
 With stride colossal, on from hall to hall;
 While far within each aisle and deep re-
 cess, 196
 His winged minions in close clusters stood,
 Amazed and full of fear; like anxious men
 Who on wide plains gather in panting
 troops,
 When earthquakes jar their battlements
 and towers. 200
 Even now, while Saturn, roused from icy
 trance,
 Went step for step with Thea through the
 woods,
 Hyperion, leaving twilight in the rear,
 Came slope upon the threshold of the west;
 Then, as was wont, his palace-door flew
 ope 205

In smoothest silence, save what solemn
 tubes,
 Blown by the serious Zephyrs, gave of
 sweet
 And wandering sounds, slow-breathèd
 melodies;
 And like a rose in vermeil tint and shape,
 In fragrance soft, and coolness to the eye,
 That inlet to severe magnificence 211
 Stood full blown, for the God to enter in.
 He entered, but he entered full of wrath;
 His flaming robes streamed out beyond his
 heels,
 And gave a roar, as if of earthly fire, 215
 That scared away the meek ethereal
 Hours
 And made their dove-wings tremble. On
 he flared,
 From stately nave to nave, from vault to
 vault,
 Through bowers of fragrant and en-
 wreathèd light,
 And diamond-pavèd lustrous long ar-
 cades, 220
 Until he reached the great main cupola;
 There standing fierce beneath, he stamped
 his foot,
 And from the basements deep to the high
 towers
 Jarred his own golden region; and before
 The quavering thunder thereupon had
 ceased, 225
 His voice leapt out, despite of godlike curb,
 To this result: "O dreams of day and
 night!
 O monstrous forms! O effigies of pain!
 O specters busy in a cold, cold gloom!
 O lank-eared Phantoms of black-weeded
 pools! 230
 Why do I know ye? why have I seen ye?
 why
 Is my eternal essence thus distraught
 To see and to behold these horrors new?
 Saturn is fallen; am I too to fall?
 Am I to leave this haven of my rest, 235
 This cradle of my glory, this soft clime,
 This calm luxuriance of blissful light,
 These crystalline pavilions, and pure fanes,
 Of all my lucent empire? It is left
 Deserted, void, nor any haunt of mine. 240
 The blaze, the splendor, and the sym-
 metry,
 I cannot see—but darkness, death and
 darkness.

Even here, into my center of repose,
 The shady visions come to domineer,
 Insult, and blind, and stifle up my
 pomp.—²⁴⁵
 Fall!—No, by Tellus and her briny robes!
 Over the fiery frontier of my realms
 I will advance a terrible right arm,
 Shall scare that infant thunderer, rebel
 Jove,
 And bid old Saturn take his throne
 again.”—²⁵⁰
 He spake and ceased, the while a heavier
 threat
 Held struggle with his throat, but came
 not forth;
 For as in theatres of crowded men
 Hubbub increases more they call out
 “Hush!”
 So at Hyperion’s words the Phantoms
 pale²⁵⁵
 Bestirred themselves, thrice horrible and
 cold;
 And from the mirrored level where he stood
 A mist arose, as from a scummy marsh.
 At this, through all his bulk an agony
 Crept gradual, from the feet unto the
 crown,²⁶⁰
 Like a lithe serpent vast and muscular
 Making slow way, with head and neck con-
 vulsed
 From over-strained might. Released, he
 fled
 To the eastern gates, and full six dewy
 hours
 Before the dawn in season due should
 blush,²⁶⁵
 He breathed fierce breath against the
 sleepy portals,
 Cleared them of heavy vapors, burst them
 wide
 Suddenly on the ocean’s chilly streams.
 The planet orb of fire, whereon he rode
 Each day from east to west the heavens
 through,²⁷⁰
 Spun round in sable curtaining of clouds;
 Not therefore veiled quite, blindfold, and
 hid,
 But ever and anon the glancing spheres,
 Circles, and arcs, and broad-belted colure,
 Glowed through, and wrought upon the
 muffling dark²⁷⁵
 Sweet-shaped lightnings from the nadir
 deep
 Up to the Zenith,—hieroglyphics old,

Which sages and keen-eyed astrologers
 Then living on the earth, with laboring
 thought
 Won from the gaze of many centuries:²⁸⁰
 Now lost, save what we find on remnants
 huge
 Of stone, or marble swart; their import
 gone,
 Their wisdom long since fled.—Two wings
 this orb
 Possessed for glory, two fair argent wings,
 Ever exalted at the God’s approach:²⁸⁵
 And now, from forth the gloom their
 plumes immense
 Rose, one by one, till all outspreaded were;
 While still the dazzling globe maintained
 eclipse,
 Awaiting for Hyperion’s command.
 Fain would he have commanded, fain took
 throne²⁹⁰
 And bid the day begin, if but for change.
 He might not:—No, though a primeval
 God:
 The sacred seasons might not be disturbed.
 Therefore the operations of the dawn
 Stayed in their birth, even as here ’tis
 told.²⁹⁵
 Those silver wings expanded sisterly,
 Eager to sail their orb; the porches wide
 Opened upon the dusk demesnes of night;
 And the bright Titan, frenzied with new
 woes,
 Unused to bend, by hard compulsion
 bent³⁰⁰
 His spirit to the sorrow of the time;
 And all along a dismal rack of clouds,
 Upon the boundaries of day and night,
 He stretched himself in grief and radiance
 faint.
 There as he lay, the Heaven with its
 stars³⁰⁵
 Looked down on him with pity, and the
 voice
 Of Coelus, from the universal space,
 Thus whispered low and solemn in his
 ear:
 “O brightest of my children dear, earth-
 born
 And sky-engendered, Son of Mysteries³¹⁰
 All unrevealed even to the powers
 Which met at thy creating; at whose joys
 And palpitations sweet, and pleasures soft,
 I, Coelus, wonder, how they came and
 whence;

And at the fruits thereof what shapes they
be, 315

Distinct, and visible; symbols divine,
Manifestations of that beauteous life
Diffused unseen throughout eternal space;
Of these new-formed art thou, O brightest
child!

Of these, thy brethren and the God-
desses! 320

There is sad feud among ye, and rebellion
Of son against his sire. I saw him fall,
I saw my first-born tumbled from his
throne!

To me his arms were spread, to me his
voice

Found way from forth the thunders round
his head! 325

Pale wox I, and in vapors hid my face.
Art thou, too, near such doom? vague fear
there is:

For I have seen my sons most unlike Gods.
Divine ye were created, and divine
In sad demeanor, solemn, undisturbed, 330
Unruffled like high Gods, ye lived and
ruled:

Now I behold in you fear, hope, and wrath;
Actions of rage and passion; even as
I see them, on the mortal world beneath,
In men who die.—This is the grief, O
Son! 335

Sad sign of ruin, sudden dismay, and fall!
Yet do thou strive; as thou art capable,
As thou canst move about, an evident
God;

And canst oppose to each malignant hour
Ethereal presence:—I am but a voice; 340
My life is but the life of winds and tides;
No more than winds and tides can I
avail:—

But thou canst.—Be thou therefore in the
van

Of circumstance; yea, seize the arrow's
barb

Before the tense string murmur.—To the
earth! 345

For there thou wilt find Saturn, and his
woes.

Meantime I will keep watch on thy bright
sun,

And of thy seasons be a careful nurse.”—
Ere half this region-whisper had come
down,

Hyperion arose, and on the stars 350
Lifted his curvèd lids, and kept them wide

Until it ceased; and still he kept them
wide:

And still they were the same bright,
patient stars.

Then with a slow incline of his broad
breast,

Like to a diver in the pearly seas, 355

Forward he stooped over the airy shore,
And plunged all noiseless into the deep
night.

SONNETS

ON FIRST LOOKING INTO CHAPMAN'S HOMER

Much have I travelled in the realms of
gold,

And many goodly states and kingdoms
seen;

Round many western islands have I
been

Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.

Oft of one wide expanse had I been told 5
That deep-browed Homer ruled as his
demesne;

Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and
bold:

Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his
ken; 10

Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific—and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise—
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

WHEN I HAVE FEARS THAT I MAY CEASE TO BE

When I have fears that I may cease to be
Before my pen has gleaned my teeming
brain,

Before high pilèd books, in charact'ry,
Hold like rich garnerers the full-ripened
grain;

When I behold, upon the night's starred
face, 5

Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,
And think that I may never live to trace
Their shadows, with the magic hand of
chance;

And when I feel, fair creature of an hour!
 That I shall never look upon thee
 more, 10
 Never have relish in the faery power
 Of unreflecting love!—then on the shore
 Of the wide world I stand alone, and think
 Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.

BRIGHT STAR! WOULD I WERE STEADFAST AS THOU ART

Bright star! would I were steadfast as
 thou art—
 Not in lone splendor hung aloft the
 night,
 And watching, with eternal lids apart,
 Like Nature's patient sleepless Eremite,
 The moving waters at their priestlike
 task 5
 Of pure ablution round earth's human
 shores,
 Or gazing on the new soft fallen mask
 Of snow upon the mountains and the
 moors—
 No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
 Pillowed upon my fair love's ripening
 breast, 10
 To feel forever its soft fall and swell,
 Awake forever in a sweet unrest,
 Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
 And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

THOMAS CAMPBELL (1777-1844)

YE MARINERS OF ENGLAND

A NAVAL ODE

Ye mariners of England
 That guard our native seas,
 Whose flag has braved a thousand years
 The battle and the breeze!
 Your glorious standard launch again 5
 To match another foe,
 And sweep through the deep,
 While the stormy winds do blow;
 While the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow. 10

The spirits of your fathers
 Shall start from every wave!—
 For the deck it was their field of fame,
 And Ocean was their grave:

Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell 15
 Your manly hearts shall glow,
 As ye sweep through the deep,
 While the stormy winds do blow;
 While the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow. 20

Britannia needs no bulwark,
 No towers along the steep;
 Her march is o'er the mountain waves,
 Her home is on the deep.
 With thunders from her native oak 25
 She quells the floods below—
 As they roar on the shore,
 When the stormy winds do blow;
 When the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow. 30

The meteor flag of England
 Shall yet terrific burn,
 Till danger's troubled night depart
 And the star of peace return.
 Then, then, ye ocean-warriors! 35
 Our song and feast shall flow
 To the fame of your name,
 When the storm has ceased to blow;
 When the fiery fight is heard no more,
 And the storm has ceased to blow. 40

THOMAS MOORE (1779-1852)

THE TIME I'VE LOST IN WOOING

The time I've lost in wooing,
 In watching and pursuing
 The light that lies
 In woman's eyes,
 Has been my heart's undoing. 5
 Though Wisdom oft has sought me,
 I scorned the lore she brought me,
 My only books
 Were woman's looks,
 And folly's all they've taught me. 10

Her smile when Beauty granted,
 I hung with gaze enchanted,
 Like him the Sprite,
 Whom maids by night
 Oft meet in glen that's haunted. 15
 Like him, too, Beauty won me,
 But while her eyes were on me;
 If once their ray
 Was turned away,
 Oh, winds could not outrun me. 20

And are those follies going?
 And is my proud heart growing
 Too cold or wise
 For brilliant eyes
 Again to set it glowing? 25
 No, vain, alas! th' endeavor
 From bonds so sweet to sever;
 Poor Wisdom's chance
 Against a glance
 Is now as weak as ever. 30

OFT IN THE STILLY NIGHT

Oft, in the stilly night,
 Ere Slumber's chain has bound me,
 Fond Memory brings the light
 Of other days around me;
 The smiles, the tears, 5
 Of boyhood's years,
 The words of love then spoken;
 The eyes that shone,
 Now dimmed and gone,
 The cheerful hearts now broken! 10
 Thus, in the stilly night,
 Ere Slumber's chain has bound me,
 Sad Memory brings the light
 Of other days around me.

When I remember all 15
 The friends, so linked together,
 I've seen around me fall,
 Like leaves in wintry weather;
 I feel like one
 Who treads alone 20
 Some banquet-hall deserted,
 Whose lights are fled,
 Whose garlands dead,
 And all but he departed!
 Thus, in the stilly night, 25
 Ere Slumber's chain has bound me,
 Sad Memory brings the light
 Of other days around me.

THE HARP THAT ONCE THROUGH
TARA'S HALLS

The harp that once through Tara's halls
 The soul of music shed,
 Now hangs as mute on Tara's walls
 As if that soul were fled.

So sleeps the pride of former days, 5
 So glory's thrill is o'er,
 And hearts that once beat high for praise
 Now feel that pulse no more!

No more to chiefs and ladies bright
 The harp of Tara swells; 10
 The chord alone that breaks at night
 Its tale of ruin tells.
 Thus Freedom now so seldom wakes,
 The only throb she gives
 Is when some heart indignant breaks, 15
 To show that still she lives.

OH, BREATHE NOT HIS NAME!

ROBERT EMMET

Oh, breathe not his name! let it sleep in the
 shade,
 Where cold and unhonored his relics are
 laid;
 Sad, silent, and dark be the tears that we
 shed,
 As the night-dew that falls on the grass
 o'er his head.

But the night-dew that falls, though in
 silence it weeps, 5
 Shall brighten with verdure the grave
 where he sleeps;
 And the tear that we shed, though in secret
 it rolls,
 Shall long keep his memory green
 in our souls.

CHARLES WOLFE (1791-1823)

THE BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE
AT CORUNNA

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,
 As his corse to the rampart we hur-
 ried;
 Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot
 O'er the grave where our hero we buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night, 5
 The sods with our bayonets turning;
 By the struggling moonbeam's misty light,
 And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
 Not in sheet nor in shroud we wound
 him, 10
 But he lay like a warrior taking his rest
 With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,
 And we spoke not a word of sorrow;
 But we steadfastly gazed on the face that
 was dead, 15
 And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought as we hollowed his narrow
 bed,
 And smoothed down his lonely pillow,
 That the foe and the stranger would tread
 o'er his head,
 And we far away on the billow! 20

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's
 gone,
 And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,—
 But little he'll reck, if they let him sleep
 on
 In the grave where a Briton has laid
 him.

But half of our weary task was done 25
 When the clock struck the hour for re-
 tiring;
 And we heard the distant and random gun
 That the foe was sullenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
 From the field of his fame fresh and
 gory; 30
 We carved not a line, and we raised not a
 stone—
 But we left him alone with his glory.

THOMAS HOOD (1789–1845)

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS

One more Unfortunate,
 Weary of breath,
 Rashly importunate,
 Gone to her death!

Take her up tenderly, 5
 Lift her with care;
 Fashioned so slenderly,
 Young, and so fair!

Look at her garments
 Clinging like cerements; 10
 Whilst the wave constantly
 Drips from her clothing;
 Take her up instantly,
 Loving, not loathing.

Touch her not scornfully; 15
 Think of her mournfully,
 Gently and humanly,
 Not of the stains of her;
 All that remains of her
 Now is pure womanly. 20

Make no deep scrutiny
 Into her mutiny
 Rash and undutiful:
 Past all dishonor,
 Death has left on her 25
 Only the beautiful.

Still, for all slips of hers,
 One of Eve's family—
 Wipe those poor lips of hers
 Oozing so clammy. 30

Loop up her tresses
 Escaped from the comb,
 Her fair auburn tresses;
 Whilst wonderment guesses
 Where was her home? 35

Who was her father?
 Who was her mother?
 Had she a sister?
 Had she a brother?
 Or was there a dearer one 40
 Still, and a nearer one
 Yet, than all other?

Alas! for the rarity
 Of Christian charity
 Under the sun! 45
 Oh, it was pitiful!
 Near a whole city full,
 Home she had none.

Sisterly, brotherly,
 Fatherly, motherly 50
 Feelings had changed:
 Love, by harsh evidence,
 Thrown from its eminence;
 Even God's providence
 Seeming estranged. 55

Where the lamps quiver
 So far in the river,
 With many a light
 From window to casement,
 From garret to basement, 60
 She stood with amazement,
 Houseless by night.

The bleak wind of March
 Made her tremble and shiver;
 But not the dark arch, 65
 Or the black flowing river:
 Mad from life's history,
 Glad to death's mystery,
 Swift to be hurled—
 Anywhere, anywhere 70
 Out of the world!

In she plunged boldly—
 No matter how coldly
 The rough river ran—
 Over the brink of it, 75
 Picture it—think of it,
 Dissolute Man!
 Lave in it, drink of it,
 Then, if you can!

Take her up tenderly, 80
 Lift her with care;
 Fashioned so slenderly,
 Young, and so fair!

Ere her limbs frigidly
 Stiffen too rigidly, 85
 Decently, kindly,
 Smooth and compose them;
 And her eyes, close them,
 Staring so blindly!

Dreadfully staring 90
 Through muddy impurity,
 As when with the daring
 Last look of despairing
 Fixed on futurity.

Perishing gloomily, 95
 Spurred by contumely,
 Cold inhumanity,
 Burning insanity,
 Into her rest.—
 Cross her hands humbly, 100
 As if praying dumbly,
 Over her breast!

Owning her weakness,
 Her evil behavior,
 And leaving with meekness, 105
 Her sins to her Savior!

THE SONG OF THE SHIRT

With fingers weary and worn,
 With eyelids heavy and red,
 A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,
 Plying her needle and thread—
 Stitch! stitch! stitch! 5
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
 And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
 She sang the "Song of the Shirt."

"Work! work! work!
 While the cock is crowing aloof! 10
 And work—work—work,
 Till the stars shine through the roof!
 It's Oh! to be a slave
 Along with the barbarous Turk,
 Where woman has never a soul to save, 15
 If this is Christian work!

"Work—work—work,
 Till the brain begins to swim;
 Work—work—work,
 Till the eyes are heavy and dim! 20
 Seam, and gusset, and band,
 Band, and gusset, and seam,
 Till over the buttons I fall asleep,
 And sew them on in a dream!

"Oh, Men, with Sisters dear! 25
 Oh, Men, with Mothers and Wives!
 It is not linen you're wearing out
 But human creatures' lives!
 Stitch—stitch—stitch,
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt, 30
 Sewing at once, with a double thread,
 A Shroud as well as a Shirt.

"But why do I talk of Death?
 That Phantom of grisly bone,
 I hardly fear its terrible shape, 35
 It seems so like my own—
 It seems so like my own,
 Because of the fasts I keep;
 Oh, God! that bread should be so dear,
 And flesh and blood so cheap! 40

"Work—work—work!
 My labor never flags;
 And what are its wages? A bed of straw,
 A crust of bread—and rags.
 That shattered roof—this naked floor— 45
 A table—a broken chair—
 And a wall so blank, my shadow I thank
 For sometimes falling there!

"Work—work—work!
 From weary chime to chime, 50
 Work—work—work,
 As prisoners work for crime!
 Band, and gusset, and seam,
 Seam, and gusset, and band,
 Till the heart is sick, and the brain be-
 numbed, 55
 As well as the weary hand.

"Work—work—work,
 In the dull December light,
 And work—work—work,
 When the weather is warm and bright—
 While underneath the eaves 61
 The brooding swallows cling
 As if to show me their sunny backs
 And twit me with the spring.

"Oh! but to breathe the breath 65
 Of the cowslip and primrose sweet—
 With the sky above my head,
 And the grass beneath my feet;
 For only one short hour
 To feel as I used to feel, 70
 Before I knew the woes of want
 And the walk that costs a meal.

"Oh! but for one short hour!
 A respite however brief!
 No blessed leisure for Love or Hope, 75
 But only time for Grief!
 A little weeping would ease my heart,
 But in their briny bed
 My tears must stop, for every drop
 Hinders needle and thread!" 80

With fingers weary and worn,
 With eyelids heavy and red,
 A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,
 Plying her needle and thread—
 Stitch! stitch! stitch! 85
 In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
 And still with a voice of dolorous pitch,—
 Would that its tone could reach the
 Rich!—
 She sang this "Song of the Shirt!"

CHARLES LAMB (1775–1834)

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL FIVE AND THIRTY YEARS AGO

In Mr. Lamb's "Works," published a year or two since, I find a magnificent eulogy on my old school,¹ such as it was, or now appears to him to have been, between the years 1782 and 1789. It happens, very oddly, that my own standing at Christ's was nearly corresponding with his; and, with all gratitude to him for his enthusiasm for the cloisters, I think he has contrived to bring to- 10
 gether whatever can be said in praise of them, dropping all the other side of the argument most ingeniously.

I remember L. at school; and can well recollect that he had some peculiar advantages, which I and others of his school-fellows had not. His friends lived in town, and were near at hand; and he had the privilege of going to see them, almost as often as he wished, through some 20
 invidious distinction, which was denied to us. The present worthy sub-treasurer to the Inner Temple can explain how that happened. He had his tea and hot rolls in a morning, while we were battenning upon our quarter of a penny loaf—our *crug*—moistened with attenuated small beer, in wooden piggins, smacking of the pitched leathern jack it was poured from. Our Monday's milk porritch, blue 30
 and tasteless, and the pease soup of Saturday, coarse and choking, were enriched for him with a slice of "extraordinary bread and butter," from the hot-loaf of the Temple. The Wednesday's mess of millet, somewhat less repugnant—(we had three banyan to four meat days in the week)—was endeared to his palate with a lump of double-refined, and a smack of ginger (to make it go down the 40
 more glibly) or the fragrant cinnamon. In lieu of our *half-pickled* Sundays, or *quite fresh* boiled beef on Thursdays (strong as *caro equina*), with detestable marigolds floating in the pail to poison the broth—our scanty mutton crags on Fridays—and rather more savory, but

¹ Recollections of Christ's Hospital.

grudging, portions of the same flesh, rotten-roasted or rare, on the Tuesdays (the only dish which excited our appe- [50 tites, and disappointed our stomachs, in almost equal proportion)—he had his hot plate of roast veal, or the more tempting griskin (exotics unknown to our palates), cooked in the paternal kitchen (a great thing), and brought him daily by his maid or aunt! I remember the good old relative (in whom love forbade pride) squatting down upon some odd stone in a by-nook of the cloisters, disclosing the [60 viands (of higher regale than those cates which the ravens ministered to the Tishbite); and the contending passions of L. at the unfolding. There was love for the bringer; shame for the thing brought, and the manner of its bringing; sympathy for those who were too many to share in it; and, at top of all, hunger (eldest, strongest of the passions!) predominant, breaking down the stony fences of [70 shame, and awkwardness, and a troubling over-consciousness.

I was a poor friendless boy. My parents, and those who should care for me, were far away. Those few acquaintances of theirs, which they could reckon upon being kind to me in the great city, after a little forced notice, which they had the grace to take of me on my first arrival in town, soon grew tired of my holiday [80 visits. They seemed to them to recur too often, though I thought them few enough; and, one after another, they all failed me, and I felt myself alone among six hundred playmates.

O the cruelty of separating a poor lad from his early homestead! The yearnings which I used to have towards it in those unfledged years! How, in my dreams, would my native town (far in the west) [90 come back, with its church, and trees, and faces! How I would wake weeping, and in the anguish of my heart exclaim upon sweet Calne in Wiltshire!

To this late hour of my life, I trace impressions left by the recollection of those friendless holidays. The long warm days of summer never return but they bring with them a gloom from the haunting memory of those *whole-day-leaves*, [100 when, by some strange arrangement, we

were turned out, for the live-long day, upon our own hands, whether we had friends to go to, or none. I remember those bathing excursions to the New River, which L. recalls with such relish, better, I think, than he can—for he was a home-seeking lad, and did not much care for such water-pastimes:—How merrily we would sally forth into the [110 fields; and strip under the first warmth of the sun; and wanton like young dace in the streams; getting us appetites for noon, which those of us that were penniless (our scanty morning crust long since exhausted) had not the means of allaying—while the cattle, and the birds, and the fishes, were at feed about us, and we had nothing to satisfy our cravings—the very beauty of the day, and the exercise [120 of the pastime, and the sense of liberty, setting a keener edge upon them!—How faint and languid, finally, we would return, towards nightfall, to our desired morsel, half-rejoicing, half-reluctant, that the hours of our uneasy liberty had expired!

It was worse in the days of winter, to go prowling about the streets objectless—shivering at cold windows of print- [130 shops, to extract a little amusement; or haply, as a last resort, in the hope of a little novelty, to pay a fifty-times repeated visit (where our individual faces should be as well known to the warden as those of his own charges) to the Lions in the Tower—to whose levée, by courtesy immemorial, we had a prescriptive title to admission.

L.'s governor (so we called the pa- [140 tron who presented us to the foundation) lived in a manner under his paternal roof. Any complaint which he had to make was sure of being attended to. This was understood at Christ's, and was an effectual screen to him against the severity of masters, or worse tyranny of the monitors. The oppressions of these young brutes are heart-sickening to call to recollection. I have been called out of [150 my bed, and *waked for the purpose*, in the coldest winter nights—and this not once, but night after night—in my shirt, to receive the discipline of a leathern thong, with eleven other sufferers, because

it pleased my callow overseer, when there has been any talking heard after we were gone to bed, to make the six last beds in the dormitory, where the youngest children of us slept, answerable for an [160 offence they neither dared to commit, nor had the power to hinder.—The same execrable tyranny drove the younger part of us from the fires, when our feet were perishing with snow; and under the cruellest penalties, forbade the indulgence of a drink of water, when we lay in sleepless summer nights, fevered with the season, and the day's sports.

There was one H—, who, I [170 learned, in after days, was seen expiating some maturer offence in the hulks. (Do I flatter myself in fancying that this might be the planter of that name, who suffered—at Nevis, I think, or St. Kitts, —some few years since? My friend Tobin was the benevolent instrument of bringing him to the gallows.) This petty Nero actually branded a boy who had offended him, with a red-hot iron; and [180 nearly starved forty of us, with exacting contributions, to the one half of our bread, to pamper a young ass, which, incredible as it may seem, with the connivance of the nurse's daughter (a young flame of his) he had contrived to smuggle in, and keep upon the leads of the *ward*, as they called our dormitories. This game went on for better than a week, till the foolish beast, not able to fare well but he [190 must cry roast meat—happier than Caligula's minion, could he have kept his own counsel—but, foolisher, alas! than any of his species in the fables—waxing fat, and kicking, in the fulness of bread, one unlucky minute would needs proclaim his good fortune to the world below; and, laying out his simple throat, blew such a ram's horn blast, as (toppling down the walls of his own Jericho) set con- [200 cealment any longer at defiance. The client was dismissed, with certain attentions, to Smithfield; but I never understood that the patron underwent any censure on the occasion. This was in the stewardship of L.'s admired Perry.

Under the same *facile* administration, can L. have forgotten the cool impunity with which the nurses used to carry away

openly, in open platters, for their own [210 tables, one out of two of every hot joint, which the careful matron had been seeing scrupulously weighed out for our dinners? These things were daily practised in that magnificent apartment, which L. (grown connoisseur since, we presume) praises so highly for the grand paintings “by Verrio, and others,” with which it is “hung round and adorned.” But the sight of sleek, well-fed blue-coat boys [220 in pictures was, at that time, I believe, little consolatory to him, or us, the living ones, who saw the better part of our provisions carried away before our faces by harpies; and ourselves reduced (with the Trojan in the hall of Dido)

“To feed our mind with idle portraiture.”

L. has recorded the repugnance of the school to *gags*, or the fat of fresh beef boiled; and sets it down to some super- [230 stition. But these unctuous morsels are never grateful to young palates (children are universally fat-haters) and in strong, coarse, boiled meats, *unsalted*, are detestable. A *gag-eater* in our time was equivalent to a *goul*, and held in equal detestation. — suffered under the imputation.

“—’Twas said,
He ate strange flesh.”

240

He was observed, after dinner, carefully to gather up the remnants left at his table (not many, nor very choice fragments, you may credit me)—and, in an especial manner, these disreputable morsels, which he would convey away, and secretly stow in the settle that stood at his bed-side. None saw when he ate them. It was rumored that he privately devoured them in the night. He was [250 watched, but no traces of such midnight practices were discoverable. Some reported, that, on leave-days, he had been seen to carry out of the bounds a large blue check handkerchief, full of something. This then must be the accursed thing. Conjecture next was at work to imagine how he could dispose of it. Some said he sold it to the beggars. This belief generally prevailed. He went [260 about moping. None spake to him. No

one would play with him. He was excommunicated; put out of the pale of the school. He was too powerful a boy to be beaten, but he underwent every mode of that negative punishment, which is more grievous than many stripes. Still he persevered. At length he was observed by two of his school-fellows, who were determined to get at the secret, [270 and had traced him one leave-day for that purpose, to enter a large worn-out building, such as there exist specimens of in Chancery Lane, which are let out to various scales of pauperism, with open door, and a common staircase. After him they silently slunk in, and followed by stealth up four flights, and saw him tap at a poor wicket, which was opened by an aged woman, meanly clad. [280 Suspicion was now ripened into certainty. The informers had secured their victim. They had him in their toils. Accusation was formally preferred, and retribution most signal was looked for. Mr. Hathaway, the then steward (for this happened a little after my time), with that patient sagacity which tempered all his conduct, determined to investigate the matter, before he proceeded to sentence. [290 The result was, that the supposed mendicants, the receivers or purchasers of the mysterious scraps, turned out to be the parents of —, an honest couple come to decay,—whom this seasonable supply had, in all probability, saved from mendicancy; and that this young stork, at the expense of his own good name, had all this while been only feeding the old birds!—The governors on this occa- [300 sion, much to their honor, voted a present relief to the family of —, and presented him with a silver medal. The lesson which the steward read upon RASH JUDGMENT, on the occasion of publicly delivering the medal to —, I believe, would not be lost upon his auditory.—I had left school then, but I well remember —. He was a tall, shambling youth, with a cast in his eye, not at all calculated [310 to conciliate hostile prejudices. I have since seen him carrying a baker's basket. I think I heard he did not do quite so well by himself, as he had done by the old folks.

I was a hypochondriac lad; and the sight of a boy in fetters, upon the day of my first putting on the blue clothes, was not exactly fitted to assuage the natural terrors of initiation. I was of tender [320 years, barely turned of seven; and had only read of such things in books, or seen them but in dreams. I was told he had *run away*. This was the punishment for the first offence.—As a novice I was soon after taken to see the dungeons. These were little, square, Bedlam cells, where a boy could just lie at his length upon straw and a blanket—a mattress, I think, was afterwards substituted—with a [330 peep of light, let in askance, from a prison-orifice at top, barely enough to read by. Here the poor boy was locked in by himself all day, without sight of any but the porter who brought him his bread and water—who *might not speak to him*;—or of the beadle, who came twice a week to call him out to receive his periodical chastisement, which was almost welcome, because it separated him for a brief [340 interval from solitude:—and here he was shut up by himself *of nights*, out of the reach of any sound, to suffer whatever horrors the weak nerves, and superstition incident to his time of life, might subject him to.¹ This was the penalty for the second offence.—Wouldst thou like, reader, to see what became of him in the next degree?

The culprit, who had been a third [350 time an offender, and whose expulsion was at this time deemed irreversible, was brought forth, as at some solemn *auto da fe*, arrayed in uncouth and most appalling attire—all trace of his late “watchet weeds” carefully effaced, he was exposed in a jacket, resembling those which London lamplighters formerly delighted in, with a cap of the same. The effect of this divestiture was such as the in- [360 genious devisers of it could have anticipated. With his pale and frightened features, it was as if some of those disfigurements in Dante had seized upon him.

¹ One or two instances of lunacy, or attempted suicide, accordingly, at length convinced the governors of the impolicy of this part of the sentence, and the midnight torture to the spirits was dispensed with.—This fancy of dungeons for children was a sprout of Howard's brain; for which (saving the reverence due to Holy Paul), methinks, I could willingly spit upon his statue. [Howard's statue was in St. Paul's Cathedral.]

In this disguise he was brought into the hall (*L.'s favorite state-room*), where awaited him the whole number of his schoolfellows, whose joint lessons and sports he was thenceforth to share no more; the awful presence of the steward, to be seen for the last time; of the executioner beadle, clad in his state robe for the occasion; and of two faces more, of direr import, because never but in these extremities visible. These were governors; two of whom, by choice, or charter, were always accustomed to officiate at these *Ultima Supplicia*; not to mitigate (so at least we understood it), but to enforce the uttermost stripe. Old Bamber [380 Gascoigne, and Peter Aubert, I remember, were colleagues on one occasion, when the beadle turning rather pale, a glass of brandy was ordered to prepare him for the mysteries. The scourging was, after the old Roman fashion, long and stately. The lictor accompanied the criminal quite round the hall. We were generally too faint with attending to the previous disgusting circumstances, to make accurate report with our eyes of the degree of corporal suffering inflicted. Report, of course, gave out the back knotty and livid. After scourging, he was made over, in his *San Benito*, to his friends, if he had any (but commonly such poor runagates were friendless), or to his parish officer, who, to enhance the effect of the scene, had his station allotted to him on the outside of the hall gate. [400

These solemn pageantries were not played off so often as to spoil the general mirth of the community. We had plenty of exercise and recreation *after* school hours; and, for myself, I must confess, that I was never happier, than *in* them. The Upper and Lower Grammar Schools were held in the same room; and an imaginary line only divided their bounds. Their character was as different as [410 that of the inhabitants on the two sides of the Pyrenees. The Rev. James Boyer was the Upper Master; but the Rev. Matthew Field presided over that portion of the apartment, of which I had the good fortune to be a member. We lived a life as careless as birds. We talked and did just what we pleased, and nobody

molested us. We carried an accidence, or a grammar, for form; but, for any [420 trouble it gave us, we might take two years in getting through the verbs deponent, and another two in forgetting all that we had learned about them. There was now and then the formality of saying a lesson, but if you had not learned it, a brush across the shoulders (just enough to disturb a fly) was the sole remonstrance. Field never used the rod; and in truth he wielded the cane with no great good will— [430 holding it "like a dancer." It looked in his hands rather like an emblem than an instrument of authority; and an emblem, too, he was ashamed of. He was a good easy man, that did not care to ruffle his own peace, nor perhaps set any great consideration upon the value of juvenile time. He came among us, now and then, but often stayed away whole days from us; and when he came, it made no difference to us—he had his private room to retire to, the short time he stayed, to be out of the sound of our noise. Our mirth and uproar went on. We had classics of our own, without being beholden to "insolent Greece or haughty Rome," that passed current among us—Peter Wilkins—the Adventures of the Hon. Capt. Robert Boyle—the Fortunate Blue Coat Boy—and the like. Or we cultivated a turn for mechanic or scientific operation; making little sun-dials of paper; or weaving those ingenious parentheses, called *cat-cradles*; or making dry peas to dance upon the end of a tin pipe; or studying the art military over that laudable game "French and English," and a hundred other such devices to pass away the time—mixing the useful with the agreeable—as would have made the souls [460 of Rousseau and John Locke chuckle to have seen us.

Matthew Field belonged to that class of modest divines who affect to mix in equal proportion the *gentleman*, the *scholar*, and the *Christian*; but, I know not how, the first ingredient is generally found to be the predominating dose in the composition. He was engaged in gay parties, or with his courtly bow at some epis- [470 copal levée, when he should have been attending upon us. He had for many

years the classical charge of a hundred children, during the four or five first years of their education; and his very highest form seldom proceeded further than two or three of the introductory fables of Phædrus. How things were suffered to go on thus, I cannot guess. Boyer, who was the proper person to have remembered these abuses, always affected, perhaps felt, a delicacy in interfering in a province not strictly his own. I have not been without my suspicions, that he was not altogether displeased at the contrast we presented to his end of the school. We were a sort of Helots to his young Spartans. He would sometimes, with ironic deference, send to borrow a rod of the Under Master, and then, with [490] sardonic grin, observe to one of his upper boys, "how neat and fresh the twigs looked." While his pale students were battering their brains over Xenophon and Plato, with a silence as deep as that enjoined by the Samite, we were enjoying ourselves at our ease in our little Goshen. We saw a little into the secrets of his discipline, and the prospect did but the more reconcile us to our lot. His thunders [500] rolled innocuous for us; his storms came near, but never touched us; contrary to Gideon's miracle, while all around were drenched, our fleece was dry. His boys turned out the better scholars; we, I suspect, have the advantage in temper. His pupils cannot speak of him without something of terror allaying their gratitude; the remembrance of Field comes back with all the soothing images of indolence, and [510] summer slumbers, and work like play, and innocent idleness, and Elysian exemptions, and life itself a "playing holiday."

Though sufficiently removed from the jurisdiction of Boyer, we were near enough (as I have said) to understand a little of his system. We occasionally heard sounds of the *Ululantes*, and caught glances of Tartarus. B. was a rabid pedant. His English style was [520] cramped to barbarism. His Easter anthems (for his duty obliged him to those periodical flights) were grating as scrannel pipes.¹—He would laugh, ay, and heartily,

¹ In this and every thing B. was the antipodes of his coadjutor. While the former was digging his brains for crude anthems, worth a pig-nut, F. would be recreating his gentle-

but then it must be at Flaccus's quibble about *Rex*—or at the *tristis severitas in vultu*, or *inspicere in patinas*, of Terence—thin jests, which at their first broaching could hardly have had *vis* enough to move a Roman muscle.—He had two [530] wigs, both pedantic, but of different omen. The one serene, smiling, fresh powdered, betokening a mild day. The other, an old, discolored, unkempt, angry caxon, denoting frequent and bloody execution. Woe to the school, when he made his morning appearance in his *passy*, or *passionate wig*. No comet expounded surer.—J. B. had a heavy hand. I have known him double his knotty [540] fist at a poor trembling child (the maternal milk hardly dry upon its lips) with a "Sirrah, do you presume to set your wits at me?"—Nothing was more common than to see him make a headlong entry into the schoolroom, from his inner recess, or library, and, with turbulent eye, singling out a lad, roar out, "Od's my life, Sirrah" (his favorite adjuration), "I have a great mind to whip you,"— [550] then, with as sudden a retracting impulse, fling back into his lair—and, after a cooling lapse of some minutes (during which all but the culprit had totally forgotten the context) drive headlong out again, piecing out his imperfect sense, as if it had been some Devil's Litany, with the expletory yell—"and I WILL too."—In his gentler moods, when the *rabidus furor* was assuaged, he had resort to an in- [560] genious method, peculiar, for what I have heard, to himself, of whipping the boy, and reading the Debates, at the same time; a paragraph, and a lash between; which in those times, when parliamentary oratory was most at a height and flourishing in these realms, was not calculated to impress the patient with a veneration for the diffuser graces of rhetoric.

Once, and but once, the uplifted [570] rod was known to fall ineffectual from his hand—when droll squinting W—having been caught putting the inside of the

manly fancy in the more flowery walks of the Muses. A little dramatic effusion of his, under the name of Vertumnus and Pomona, is not yet forgotten by the chroniclers of that sort of literature. It was accepted by Garrick, but the town did not give it their sanction.—B. used to say of it, in a way of half-compliment, half-irony, that it was *too classical for representation*. (Lamb.)

master's desk to a use for which the architect had clearly not designed it, to justify himself, with great simplicity averred, that *he did not know that the thing had been forewarned*. This exquisite irrecognition of any law antecedent to the *oral* or *declaratory* struck so irresistibly upon the fancy of all who heard it (the pedagogue himself not excepted) that remission was unavoidable.

L. has given credit to B.'s great merits as an instructor. Coleridge, in his literary life, has pronounced a more intelligible and ample encomium on them. The author of the *Country Spectator* doubts not to compare him with the ablest teachers of antiquity. Perhaps we cannot dismiss him better than with the pious ejaculation of C.—when he heard that his old master was on his death-bed—"Poor J. B.!—may all his faults be forgiven; and may he be wafted to bliss by little cherub boys, all head and wings, with no *bottoms* to reproach his sublunary infirmities."

Under him were many good and sound scholars bred.—First Grecian of my time was Lancelot Pepys Stevens, kindest of boys and men, since Co-grammar-master (and inseparable companion) with Dr. T—e. What an edifying spectacle did this brace of friends present to those who remembered the anti-socialities of their predecessors!—You never met the one by chance in the street without a wonder, which was quickly dissipated by the almost immediate sub-appearance of the other. Generally arm in arm, these kindly coadjutors lightened for each other the toilsome duties of their profession, and when, in advanced age, one found it convenient to retire, the other was not long in discovering that it suited him to lay down the fasces also. Oh, it is pleasant, as it is rare, to find the same arm linked in yours at forty, which at thirteen helped it to turn over the *Cicero De Amicitia*, or some tale of Antique Friendship, which the young heart even then was burning to anticipate!—Co-Grecian with S. was Th—, who has since executed with ability various diplomatic functions at the Northern courts. Th— was a tall, dark, saturnine youth, sparing

of speech, with raven locks.—Thomas Fanshaw Middleton followed him (now Bishop of Calcutta) a scholar and a gentleman in his teens. He has the reputation of an excellent critic; and is author (besides the *Country Spectator*) of a *Treatise on the Greek Article*, against Sharpe—M. is said to bear his mitre high in India, where the *regni novitas* (I dare say) sufficiently justifies the bearing. A humility quite as primitive as that of Jewel or Hooker might not be exactly fitted to impress the minds of those Anglo-Asiatic diocesans with a reverence for home institutions, and the church which those fathers watered. The manners of M. at school, though firm, were mild and unassuming.—Next to M. (if not senior to him) was Richards, author of the *Aboriginal Britons*, the most spirited of the *Oxford Prize Poems*; a pale, studious Grecian.—Then followed poor S—, ill-fated M—! of these the Muse is silent.

"Finding some of Edward's race
Unhappy, pass their annals by."

Come back into memory, like as thou wert in the dayspring of thy fancies, with hope like a fiery column before thee—the dark pillar not yet turned—Samuel Taylor Coleridge—Logician, Metaphysician, Bard!—How have I seen the casual passer through the Cloisters stand still, entranced with admiration (while he weighed the disproportion between the *speech* and the *garb* of the young *Mirandula*), to hear thee unfold, in thy deep and sweet intonations, the mysteries of Jamblichus, or Plotinus (for even in those years thou waxedst not pale at such philosophic draughts), or reciting Homer in his Greek, or Pindar—while the walls of the old Grey Friars re-echoed to the accents of the *inspired charity-boy*! Many were the "wit-combats" (to dally awhile with the words of old Fuller) between him and C. V. Le G—, "which two I behold like a Spanish great gallion, and an English man-of-war; Master Coleridge, like the former, was built far higher in learning, solid, but slow in his performances. C.

V. L., with the English man-of-war, [680 lesser in bulk, but lighter in sailing, could turn with all tides, tack about, and take advantage of all winds, by the quickness of his wit and invention.”

Nor shalt thou, their compeer, be quickly forgotten, Allen, with the cordial smile, and still more cordial laugh, with which thou wert wont to make the old Cloisters shake, in thy cognition of some poignant jest of theirs; or the antic- [690 pation of some more material, and, peradventure, practical one, of thine own. Extinct are those smiles, with that beautiful countenance, with which (for thou wert the *Nireus formosus* of the school), in the days of thy maturer waggery, thou didst disarm the wrath of infuriated town-damsel, who, incensed by provoking pinch, turning tigress-like round, suddenly converted by thy angel-look, ex- [700 changed the half-formed terrible “bl—,” for a gentler greeting— “*bless thy handsome face!*”

Next follow two, who ought to be now alive, and the friends of Elia—the junior Le G— and F—; who, impelled, the former by a roving temper, the latter by too quick a sense of neglect—ill capable of enduring the slights poor Sizars are sometimes subject to in our seats of learn- [710 ing—exchanged their Alma Mater for the camp; perishing, one by climate, and one on the plains of Salamanca:—Le G— sanguine, volatile, sweet-natured; F— dogged, faithful, anticipative of insult, warm-hearted, with something of the old Roman height about him.

Fine, frank-hearted Fr—, the present master of Hertford, with Marmaduke T—, mildest of Missionaries—and [720 both my good friends still—close the catalogue of Grecians in my time.

DREAM-CHILDREN; A REVERIE

Children love to listen to stories about their elders, when *they* were children; to stretch their imagination to the conception of a traditionary great-uncle or grandame, whom they never saw.. It was in this spirit that my little ones crept

about me the other evening to hear about their great-grandmother Field, who lived in a great house in Norfolk (a hundred times bigger than that in which they [10 and papa lived) which had been the scene—so at least it was generally believed in that part of the country—of the tragic incidents which they had lately become familiar with from the ballad of the Children in the Wood. Certain it is that the whole story of the children and their cruel uncle was to be seen fairly carved out in wood upon the chimney-piece of the great hall, [20 the whole story down to the Robin Redbreasts, till a foolish rich person pulled it down to set up a marble one of modern invention in its stead, with no story upon it. Here Alice put out one of her dear mother's looks, too tender to be called upbraiding. Then I went on to say, how religious and how good their great-grandmother Field was, how [30 beloved and respected by every body, though she was not indeed the mistress of this great house, but had only the charge of it (and yet in some respects she might be said to be the mistress of it too) committed to her by the owner, who preferred living in a newer and more fashionable mansion which he had purchased somewhere in the adjoining county; but still she lived in it in a manner [40 as if it had been her own, and kept up the dignity of the great house in a sort while she lived, which afterwards came to decay, and was nearly pulled down, and all its old ornaments stripped and carried away to the owner's other house, where they were set up, and looked as awkward as if some one were to carry away the old tombs they had seen lately at the Abbey, and stick them up in Lady C.'s tawdry gilt [50 drawing-room. Here John smiled, as much as to say, “that would be foolish indeed.” And then I told how, when she came to die, her funeral was attended by a concourse of all the poor, and some of the gentry too, of the neighborhood for many miles round, to show their respect for her memory, because she had been such a good and religious woman; so good indeed that she knew all the Psalter [60

by heart, ay, and a great part of the Testament besides. Here little Alice spread her hands. Then I told what a tall, upright, graceful person their great-grandmother Field once was; and how in her youth she was esteemed the best dancer—here Alice's little right foot played an involuntary movement, till upon my looking grave, it desisted—the best dancer, I was saying, in the county, till a [70 cruel disease, called a cancer, came, and bowed her down with pain; but it could never bend her good spirits, or make them stoop, but they were still upright, because she was so good and religious. Then I told how she was used to sleep by herself in a lone chamber of the great lone house; and how she believed that an apparition of two infants was to be seen at midnight gliding up and down the great stair—[80 case near where she slept, but she said “those innocents would do her no harm;” and how frightened I used to be, though in those days I had my maid to sleep with me, because I was never half so good or religious as she—and yet I never saw the infants. Here John expanded all his eyebrows and tried to look courageous. Then I told how good she was to all her grand-children, having us to the great [90 house in the holidays, where I in particular used to spend many hours by myself, in gazing upon the old busts of the Twelve Cæsars, that had been Emperors of Rome, till the old marble heads would seem to live again, or I to be turned into marble with them; how I never could be tired with roaming about that huge mansion, with its vast empty rooms, with their worn-out hangings, fluttering [100 tapestry, and carved oaken panels, with the gilding almost rubbed out—sometimes in the spacious old-fashioned gardens, which I had almost to myself, unless when now and then a solitary gardening man would cross me—and how the nectarines and peaches hung upon the walls, without my ever offering to pluck them, because they were forbidden fruit, unless now and then,—and because I had more [110 pleasure in strolling about among the old melancholy-looking yew trees, or the firs, and picking up the red berries, and the fir apples, which were good for noth-

ing but to look at—or in lying about upon the fresh grass, with all the fine garden smells around me—or basking in the orangery, till I could almost fancy myself ripening too along with the oranges and the limes in that grateful warmth [120—or in watching the dace that darted to and fro in the fish-pond, at the bottom of the garden, with here and there a great sulky pike hanging midway down the water in silent state, as if it mocked at their impertinent friskings,—I had more pleasure in these busy-idle diversions than in all the sweet flavors of peaches, nectarines, oranges, and such like common baits of children. Here John slyly [130 deposited back upon the plate a bunch of grapes, which, not unobserved by Alice, he had meditated dividing with her, and both seemed willing to relinquish them for the present as irrelevant. Then in somewhat a more heightened tone, I told how, though their great-grandmother Field loved all her grand-children, yet in an especial manner she might be said to love their uncle, John L—, because he [140 was so handsome and spirited a youth, and a king to the rest of us; and, instead of moping about in solitary corners, like some of us, he would mount the most mettlesome horse he could get, when but an imp no bigger than themselves, and make it carry him half over the county in a morning, and join the hunters when there were any out—and yet he loved the old great house and gardens too, but [150 had too much spirit to be always pent up within their boundaries—and how their uncle grew up to man's estate as brave as he was handsome, to the admiration of everybody, but of their great-grandmother Field most especially; and how he used to carry me upon his back when I was a lame-footed boy—for he was a good bit older than me—many a mile when I could not walk for pain;—and how in after [160 life he became lame-footed too, and I did not always (I fear) make allowances enough for him when he was impatient, and in pain, nor remember sufficiently how considerate he had been to me when I was lame-footed; and how when he died, though he had not been dead an hour, it seemed as if he had died a great

while ago, such a distance there is betwixt life and death; and how I bore his [170 death as I thought pretty well at first, but afterwards it haunted and haunted me; and though I did not cry or take it to heart as some do, and as I think he would have done if I had died, yet I missed him all day long, and knew not till then how much I had loved him. I missed his kindness, and I missed his crossness, and wished him to be alive again, to be quarrelling with him (for we quarrelled [180 sometimes), rather than not have him again, and was as uneasy without him, as he their poor uncle must have been when the doctor took off his limb. Here the children fell a-crying, and asked if their little mourning which they had on was not for uncle John, and they looked up, and prayed me not to go on about their uncle, but to tell them some stories about their pretty dead mother. Then I [190 told how for seven long years, in hope sometimes, sometimes in despair, yet persisting ever, I courted the fair Alice W—n; and, as much as children could understand, I explained to them what coyness, and difficulty, and denial meant in maidens—when suddenly, turning to Alice, the soul of the first Alice looked out at her eyes with such a reality of re-presentment, that I became in [200 doubt which of them stood there before me, or whose that bright hair was; and while I stood gazing, both the children gradually grew fainter to my view, receding, and still receding till nothing at last but two mournful features were seen in the uttermost distance, which, without speech, strangely impressed upon me the effects of speech; “We are not of Alice, nor of thee, nor are we children at all. [210 The children of Alice call Bartrum father. We are nothing; less than nothing, and dreams. We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence, and a name”—and immediately awaking, I found myself quietly seated in my bachelor armchair, where I had fallen asleep, with the faithful Bridget unchanged by my side—but [220 John L. (or James Elia) was gone for ever.

THE PRAISE OF CHIMNEY-SWEEPERS

I like to meet a sweep—understand me—not a grown sweeper—old chimney-sweepers are by no means attractive—but one of those tender novices, blooming through their first nigrity, the maternal washings not quite effaced from the cheek—such as come forth with the dawn, or somewhat earlier, with their little professional notes sounding like the *peep peep* of a young sparrow; or [10 liker to the matin lark should I pronounce them, in their aerial ascents not seldom anticipating the sun-rise?

I have a kindly yearning toward these dim specks—poor blots—innocent blacknesses—

I reverence these young Africans of our own growth—these almost clergy imps, who sport their cloth without assumption; and from their little pulpits (the tops [20 of chimneys), in the nipping air of a December morning, preach a lesson of patience to mankind.

When a child, what a mysterious pleasure it was to witness their operation! to see a chit no bigger than one's self enter, one knew not by what process, into what seemed the *fauces Averni*—to pursue him in imagination, as he went sounding on through so many dark stifling caverns, [30 horrid shades!—to shudder with the idea that “now, surely, he must be lost for ever!”—to revive at hearing his feeble shout of discovered day-light—and then (O fulness of delight) running out of doors, to come just in time to see the sable phenomenon emerge in safety, the brandished weapon of his art victorious like some flag waved over a conquered citadel! I seem to remember having been told, [40 that a bad sweep was once left in a stack with his brush, to indicate which way the wind blew. It was an awful spectacle certainly; not much unlike the old stage direction in *Macbeth*, where the “Apparition of a child crowned with a tree in his hand rises.”

Reader, if thou meetest one of these small gentry in thy early rambles, it is good to give him a penny. It is better [50

to give him two-pence. If it be starving weather, and to the proper troubles of his hard occupation, a pair of kibed heels (no unusual accompaniment) be super-added, the demand on thy humanity will surely rise to a tester.

There is a composition, the groundwork of which I have understood to be the sweet wood 'yclept sassafras. This wood boiled down to a kind of tea, and [60 tempered with an infusion of milk and sugar, hath to some tastes a delicacy beyond the China luxury. I know not how thy palate may relish it; for myself, with every deference to the judicious Mr. Read, who hath time out of mind kept open a shop (the only one he avers in London) for the vending of this "wholesome and pleasant beverage," on the south side of Fleet Street, as thou approach- [70 est Bridge Street—the *only Salopian house*,—I have never yet ventured to dip my own particular lip in a basin of his commended ingredients—a cautious premonition to the olfactories constantly whispering to me, that my stomach must infallibly, with all due courtesy, decline it. Yet I have seen palates, otherwise not uninstructed in dietetical elegances, sup it up with avidity. [80

I know not by what particular conformation of the organ it happens, but I have always found that this composition is surprisingly gratifying to the palate of a young chimney-sweeper—whether the oily particles (sassafras is slightly oleaginous) do attenuate and soften the fuliginous concretions, which are sometimes found (in dissections) to adhere to the roof of the mouth in these unfledged practitioners; or whether Nature, sensible that she had mingled too much of bitter wood in the lot of these raw victims, caused to grow out of the earth her sassafras for a sweet lenitive—but so it is, that no possible taste or odor to the senses of a young chimney-sweeper can convey a delicate excitement comparable to this mixture. Being penniless, they will yet hang their black heads over the ascending steam, to gratify one sense if possible, seemingly no less pleased than those domestic animals—cats—when they purr over a new-found sprig of valerian. There

is something more in these sympathies than philosophy can inculcate.

Now albeit Mr. Read boasteth, not without reason, that his is the *only Salopian house*; yet be it known to thee, reader—if thou art one who keepest [110 what are called good hours, thou art haply ignorant of the fact—he hath a race of industrious imitators, who from stalls, and under open sky, dispense the same savory mess to humbler customers, at that dead time of the dawn, when (as extremes meet) the rake, reeling home from his midnight cups, and the hard-handed artisan leaving his bed to resume the premature labors of the day, [120 jostle, not unfrequently to the manifest disconcerting of the former, for the honors of the pavement. It is the time when, in summer, between the expired and the not yet relumined kitchen-fires, the kennels of our fair metropolis give forth their least satisfactory odors. The rake, who wisheth to dissipate his o'er-night vapors in more grateful coffee, curses the ungenial fume, as he passeth; but the artisan [130 stops to taste, and blesses the fragrant breakfast.

This is *Saloop*—the precocious herb-woman's darling—the delight of the early gardener, who transports his smoking cabbages by break of day from Hammer-smith to Covent Garden's famed piazzas—the delight, and, oh I fear, too often the envy, of the unpenned sweep. Him shouldest thou haply encounter, with [140 his dim visage pendent over the grateful steam, regale him with a sumptuous basin (it will cost thee but three half-pennies) and a slice of delicate bread and butter (an added halfpenny)—so may thy culinary fires, eased of the o'er-charged secretions from thy worse-placed hospitalities, curl up a lighter volume to the welkin—so may the descending soot never taint thy costly well-ingredienced soups— [150 nor the odious cry, quick-reaching from street to street, of the *fired chimney*, invite the rattling engines from ten adjacent parishes, to disturb for a casual scintillation thy peace and pocket!

I am by nature extremely susceptible of street affronts; the jeers and taunts of the populace; the low-bred triumph they

display over the casual trip, or splashed stocking, of a gentleman. Yet can I [160 endure the jocularly of a young sweep with something more than forgiveness.—In the last winter but one, pacing along Cheap-side with my accustomed precipitation when I walk westward, a treacherous slide brought me upon my back in an instant. I scrambled up with pain and shame enough—yet outwardly trying to face it down, as if nothing had happened—when the roguish grin of one of these [170 young wits encountered me. There he stood, pointing me out with his dusky finger to the mob, and to a poor woman (I suppose his mother) in particular, till the tears for the exquisiteness of the fun (so he thought it) worked themselves out at the corners of his poor red eyes, red from many a previous weeping, and soot-inflamed, yet twinkling through all with such a joy, snatched out of desolation, [180 that Hogarth—but Hogarth has got him already (how could he miss him?) in the March to Finchley, grinning at the pie-man—there he stood, as he stands in the picture, irremovable, as if the jest was to last for ever—with such a maximum of glee, and minimum of mischief, in his mirth—for the grin of a genuine sweep hath absolutely no malice in it—that I could have been content, if the honor of a gentle- [190 man might endure it, to have remained his butt and his mockery till midnight.

I am by theory obdurate to the seductiveness of what are called a fine set of teeth. Every pair of rosy lips (the ladies must pardon me) is a casket, presumably holding such jewels; but, methinks, they should take leave to “air” them as frugally as possible. The fine lady, or fine gentleman, who show me their teeth, [200 show me bones. Yet must I confess, that from the mouth of a true sweep a display (even to ostentation) of those white and shining ossifications, strikes me as an agreeable anomaly in manners, and an allowable piece of foppery. It is, as when

“A sable cloud
Turns forth her silver lining on the night.”

It is like some remnant of gentry not [210 quite extinct; a badge of better days; a

hint of nobility:—and, doubtless, under the obscuring darkness and double night of their forlorn disguise, oftentimes lurketh good blood, and gentle conditions, derived from lost ancestry, and a lapsed pedigree. The premature apprenticeships of these tender victims give but too much encouragement, I fear, to clandestine, and almost infantile ab- [220 ductions; the seeds of civility and true courtesy, so often discernible in these young grafts (not otherwise to be accounted for) plainly hint at some forced adoptions; many noble Rachels mourning for their children, even in our days, countenance the fact; the tales of fairy-spiriting may shadow a lamentable verity, and the recovery of the young Montagu be but a solitary instance of good for- [230 tune, out of many irreparable and hopeless *defiliations*.

In one of the state-béds at Arundel Castle, a few years since—under a ducal canopy—(that seat of the Howards is an object of curiosity to visitors, chiefly for its beds, in which the late duke was especially a connoisseur)—encircled with curtains of delicatest crimson, with starry coronets inwoven—folded between a [240 pair of sheets whiter and softer than the lap where Venus lulled Ascanius—was discovered by chance, after all methods of search had failed, at noon-day, fast asleep, a lost chimney sweeper. The little creature, having somehow confounded his passage among the intricacies of those lordly chimneys, by some unknown aperture had alighted upon this magnificent chamber; and, tired with [250 his tedious explorations, was unable to resist the delicious invitemment to repose, which he there saw exhibited; so, creeping between the sheets very quietly, laid his black head upon the pillow, and slept like a young Howard.

Such is the account given to the visitors at the Castle.—But I cannot help seeming to perceive a confirmation of what I have just hinted at in this story. A high [260 instinct was at work in the case, or I am mistaken. Is it probable that a poor child of that description, with whatever weariness he might be visited, would have ventured, under such a penalty, as he

would be taught to expect, to uncover the sheets of a Duke's bed, and deliberately to lay himself down between them, when the rug, or the carpet, presented an obvious couch, still far above his pre- [270 tensions—is this probable, I would ask, if the great power of nature, which I contend for, had not been manifested within him, prompting to the adventure? Doubtless this young nobleman (for such my mind misgives me that he must be) was allured by some memory, not amounting to full consciousness, of his condition in infancy, when he was used to be lapt by his mother, or his nurse, in just [280 such sheets as he there found, into which he was but now creeping back as into his proper *incunabula*, and resting-place.—By no other theory, than by this sentiment of a pre-existent state (as I may call it), can I explain a deed so venturous, and, indeed, upon any other system, so indecorous, in this tender, but unseasonable, sleeper.

My pleasant friend JEM WHITE was [290 so impressed with a belief of metamorphoses like this frequently taking place, that in some sort to reverse the wrongs of fortune in these poor changelings, he instituted an annual feast of chimney-sweepers, at which it was his pleasure to officiate as host and waiter. It was a solemn supper held in Smithfield, upon the yearly return of the fair of St. Bartholomew. Cards were issued a week be- [300 fore to the master-sweeps in and about the metropolis, confining the invitation to their younger fry. Now and then an elderly stripling would get in among us, and be good-naturedly winked at; but our main body were infantry. One unfortunate wight, indeed, who, relying upon his dusky suit, had intruded himself into our party, but by tokens was providentially discovered in time to be no [310 chimney-sweeper (all is not soot which looks so), was quoited out of the presence with universal indignation, as not having on the wedding garment; but in general the greatest harmony prevailed. The place chosen was a convenient spot among the pens, at the north side of the fair, not so far distant as to be impervious to the agreeable hubbub of that vanity; but

remote enough not to be obvious to [320 the interruption of every gaping spectator in it. The guests assembled about seven. In those little temporary parlors three tables were spread with napery, not so fine as substantial, and at every board a comely hostess presided with her pan of hissing sausages. The nostrils of the young rogues dilated at the savor. JAMES WHITE, as head waiter, had charge of the first table; and myself, with our [330 trusty companion BIGON, ordinarily ministered to the other two. There was clambering and jostling, you may be sure, who should get at the first table—for Rochester in his maddest days could not have done the humors of the scene with more spirit than my friend. After some general expression of thanks for the honor the company had done him, his inaugural ceremony was to clasp the greasy [340 waist of old dame Ursula (the fattest of the three), that stood frying and fretting, half-blessing, half-cursing "the gentleman," and imprint upon her chaste lips a tender salute, whereat the universal host would set up a shout that tore the concave, while hundreds of grinning teeth startled the night with their brightness. O it was a pleasure to see the sable youngers lick in the unctuous meat, [350 with *his* more unctuous sayings—how he would fit the tit-bits to the puny mouths, reserving the lengthier links for the seniors—how he would intercept a morsel even in the jaws of some young desperado, declaring it "must to the pan again to be browned, for it was not fit for a gentleman's eating"—how he would recommend this slice of white bread, or that piece of kissing-crust, to a ten- [360 der juvenile, advising them all to have a care of cracking their teeth, which were their best patrimony,—how genteelly he would deal about the small ale, as if it were wine, naming the brewer, and protesting, if it were not good he should lose their custom; with a special recommendation to wipe the lip before drinking. Then we had our toasts—"The King,"—the "Cloth,"—which, whether they un- [370 derstood or not, was equally diverting and flattering;—and for a crowning sentiment, which never failed, "May the Brush

supersede the Laurel." All these, and fifty other fancies, which were rather felt than comprehended by his guests, would he utter, standing upon tables, and prefacing every sentiment with a "Gentlemen, give me leave to propose so and so," which was a prodigious comfort [380 to those young orphans; every now and then stuffing into his mouth (for it did not do to be squeamish on these occasions) indiscriminate pieces of those reeking sausages, which pleased them mightily, and was the savoriest part, you may believe, of the entertainment.

"Golden lads and lasses must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust"—

James White is extinct, and with [390 him these suppers have long ceased. He carried away with him half the fun of the world when he died—of my world at least. His old clients look for him among the pens; and, missing him, reproach the altered feast of St. Bartholomew, and the glory of Smithfield departed for ever.

A DISSERTATION UPON ROAST PIG

Mankind, says a Chinese manuscript, which my friend M. was obliging enough to read and explain to me, for the first seventy thousand ages ate their meat raw, clawing or biting it from the living animal, just as they do in Abyssinia to this day. This period is not obscurely hinted at by their great Confucius in the second chapter of his *Mundane Mutations*, where he designates a [10 kind of golden age by the term *Cho-fang*, literally the Cook's Holiday. The manuscript goes on to say, that the art of roasting, or rather broiling (which I take to be the elder brother) was accidentally discovered in the manner following. The swine-herd, Ho-ti, having gone out into the woods one morning, as his manner was, to collect mast for his hogs, left his cottage in the care of his eldest son [20 Bo-bo, a great lubberly boy, who being fond of playing with fire, as youngers of his age commonly are, let some sparks

escape into a bundle of straw, which kindling quickly, spread the conflagration over every part of their poor mansion, till it was reduced to ashes. Together with the cottage (a sorry antediluvian make-shift of a building, you may think it), what was of much more impor- [30 tance, a fine litter of new-farrowed pigs, no less than nine in number, perished. China pigs have been esteemed a luxury all over the East from the remotest periods that we read of. Bo-bo was in the utmost consternation, as you may think, not so much for the sake of the tenement, which his father and he could easily build up again with a few dry branches, and the labor of an hour or two, at any [40 time, as for the loss of the pigs. While he was thinking what he should say to his father, and wringing his hands over the smoking remnants of one of those untimely sufferers, an odor assailed his nostrils, unlike any scent which he had before experienced. What could it proceed from?—not from the burnt cottage—he had smelt that smell before—indeed this was by no means the first acci- [50 dent of the kind which had occurred through the negligence of this unlucky young fire-brand. Much less did it resemble that of any known herb, weed, or flower. A premonitory moistening at the same time overflowed his nether lip. He knew not what to think. He next stooped down to feel the pig, if there were any signs of life in it. He burnt his fingers, and to cool them he applied them in [60 his booby fashion to his mouth. Some of the crumbs of the scorched skin had come away with his fingers, and for the first time in his life (in the world's life indeed, for before him no man had known it) he tasted—*crackling!* Again he felt and fumbled at the pig. It did not burn him so much now, still he licked his fingers from a sort of habit. The truth at length broke into his slow under- [70 standing, that it was the pig that smelt so, and the pig that tasted so delicious; and, surrendering himself up to the newborn pleasure, he fell to tearing up whole handfuls of the scorched skin with the flesh next it, and was cramming it down his throat in his beastly fashion, when

his sire entered amid the smoking rafters, armed with retributory cudgel, and finding how affairs stood, began to rain [80 blows upon the young rogue's shoulders, as thick as hailstones, which Bo-bo heeded not any more than if they had been flies. The tickling pleasure, which he experienced in his lower regions, had rendered him quite callous to any inconveniences he might feel in those remote quarters. His father might lay on, but he could not beat him from his pig, till he had fairly made an end of it, [90 when, becoming a little more sensible of his situation, something like the following dialogue ensued.

"You graceless whelp, what have you got there devouring? Is it not enough that you have burnt me down three houses with your dog's tricks, and be hanged to you, but you must be eating fire, and I know not what—what have you got there, I say?" [100

"O, father, the pig, the pig, do come and taste how nice the burnt pig eats."

The ears of Ho-ti tingled with horror. He cursed his son, and he cursed himself that ever he should beget a son that should eat burnt pig.

Bo-bo, whose scent was wonderfully sharpened since morning, soon raked out another pig, and fairly rending it asunder, thrust the lesser half by main force [110 into the fists of Ho-ti, still shouting out "Eat, eat, eat the burnt pig, father, only taste—O Lord,"—with such-like barbarous ejaculations, cramming all the while as if he would choke.

Ho-ti trembled every joint while he grasped the abominable thing, wavering whether he should not put his son to death for an unnatural young monster, when the crackling scorching his fin- [120 gers, as it had done his son's, and applying the same remedy to them, he in his turn tasted some of its flavor, which, make what sour mouths he would for a pretence, proved not altogether displeasing to him. In conclusion (for the manuscript here is a little tedious) both father and son fairly sat down to the mess, and never left off till they had despatched all that remained of the litter. [130

Bo-bo was strictly enjoined not to let

the secret escape, for the neighbors would certainly have stoned them for a couple of abominable wretches, who could think of improving upon the good meat which God had sent them. Nevertheless, strange stories got about. It was observed that Ho-ti's cottage was burnt down now more frequently than ever. Nothing but fires from this time forward. Some [140 would break out in broad day, others in the night-time. As often as the sow farrowed, so sure was the house of Ho-ti to be in a blaze; and Ho-ti himself, which was the more remarkable, instead of chastising his son, seemed to grow more indulgent to him than ever. At length they were watched, the terrible mystery discovered, and father and son summoned to take their trial at Pekin, [150 then an inconsiderable assize town. Evidence was given, the obnoxious food itself produced in court, and verdict about to be pronounced, when the foreman of the jury begged that some of the burnt pig, of which the culprits stood accused, might be handed into the box. He handled it, and, they all handled it, and burning their fingers, as Bo-bo and his father had done before them, and na- [160 ture prompting to each of them the same remedy, against the face of all the facts, and the clearest charge which judge had ever given,—to the surprise of the whole court, townsfolk, strangers, reporters, and all present—without leaving the box, or any manner of consultation whatever, they brought in a simultaneous verdict of Not Guilty.

The judge, who was a shrewd fellow, [170 winked at the manifest iniquity of the decision; and, when the court was dismissed, went privily, and bought up all the pigs that could be had for love or money. In a few days his Lordship's town house was observed to be on fire. The thing took wing, and now there was nothing to be seen but fires in every direction. Fuel and pigs grew enormously dear all over the district. The insur- [180 ance offices one and all shut up shop. People built slighter and slighter every day, until it was feared that the very science of architecture would in no long time be lost to the world. Thus this

custom of firing houses continued, till in process of time, says my manuscript, a sage arose, like our Locke, who made a discovery, that the flesh of swine, or indeed of any other animal, might be [190 cooked (*burnt*, as they called it) without the necessity of consuming a whole house to dress it. Then first began the rude form of a gridiron. Roasting by the string, or spit, came in a century or two later, I forget in whose dynasty. By such slow degrees, concludes the manuscript, do the most useful, and seemingly the most obvious arts, make their way among mankind.— [200

Without placing too implicit faith in the account above given, it must be agreed, that if a worthy pretext for so dangerous an experiment as setting houses on fire (especially in these days) could be assigned in favor of any culinary object, that pretext and excuse might be found in ROAST PIG.

Of all the delicacies in the whole *mundus edibilis*, I will maintain it to be the [210 most delicate—*princeps obsoniorum*.

I speak not of your grown porkers—things between pig and pork—those hobbydehoys—but a young and tender suckling—under a moon old—guiltless as yet of the sty—with no original speck of the *amor immunditiæ*, the hereditary failing of the first parent, yet manifest—his voice as yet not broken, but something between a childish treble and a grum— [220 ble—the mild forerunner, or *præludium*, of a grunt.

He must be roasted. I am not ignorant that our ancestors ate them seethed, or boiled—but what a sacrifice of the exterior tegument!

There is no flavor comparable, I will contend, to that of the crisp, tawny, well-watched, not over-roasted, *crackling*, as it is well called—the very teeth [230 are invited to their share of the pleasure at this banquet in overcoming the coy, brittle resistance—with the adhesive oleaginous—O call it not fat—but an indefinable sweetness growing up to it—the tender blossoming of fat—fat cropped in the bud—taken in the shoot—in the first innocence—the cream and quintessence of the child-pig's yet pure food—

the lean, no lean, but a kind of animal [240 manna—or, rather, fat and lean (if it must be so) so blended and running into each other, that both together make but one ambrosian result, or common substance.

Behold him, while he is doing—it seemeth rather a refreshing warmth, than a scorching heat, that he is so passive to. How equably he twirleth round the string!—Now he is just done. To [250 see the extreme sensibility of that tender age, he hath wept out his pretty eyes—radiant jellies—shooting stars—

See him in the dish, his second cradle, how meek he lieth!—wouldst thou have had this innocent grow up to the grossness and indocility which too often accompany maturer swinehood? Ten to one he would have proved a glutton, a sloven, an obstinate, disagreeable [260 animal—wallowing in all manner of filthy conversation—from these sins he is happily snatched away—

“Ere sin could blight, or sorrow fade,
Death came with timely care”—

his memory is odoriferous—no clown curseth, while his stomach half rejecteth, the rank bacon—no coalheaver bolteth him in reeking sausages—he hath a fair sepulchre in the grateful stomach of [270 the judicious epicure—and for such a tomb might be content to die.

He is the best of Savors. Pine-apple is great. She is indeed almost too transcendent—a delight, if not sinful, yet so like to sinning, that really a tender-conscienced person would do well to pause—too ravishing for mortal taste, she woundeth and excoriateth the lips that approach her—like lovers' kisses, she biteth— [280 she is a pleasure bordering on pain from the fierceness and insanity of her relish—but she stoppeth at the palate—she meddleth not with the appetite—and the coarsest hunger might barter her consistently for a mutton chop.

Pig—let me speak his praise—is no less provocative of the appetite, than he is satisfactory to the criticalness of the censorious palate. The strong man [290 may batten on him, and the weakling refuseth not his mild juices.

Unlike to mankind's mixed characters, a bundle of virtues and vices, inexplicably intertwined, and not to be unravelled without hazard, he is—good throughout. No part of him is better or worse than another. He helpeth, as far as his little means extend, all around. He is the least envious of banquets. He is all [300 neighbors' fare.

I am one of those, who freely and ungrudgingly impart a share of the good things of this life which fall to their lot (few as mine are in this kind) to a friend. I protest I take as great an interest in my friend's pleasures, his relishes, and proper satisfactions, as in mine own. "Presents," I often say, "endear Absents." Hares, pheasants, part- [310 ridges, snipes, barn-door chickens (those "tame villatic fowl"), capons, plovers, brawn, barrels of oysters, I dispense as freely as I receive them. I love to taste them, as it were, upon the tongue of my friend. But a stop must be put somewhere. One would not, like Lear, "give everything." I make my stand upon pig. Methinks it is an ingratitude to the Giver of all good flavors, to extra-domicili- [320 ate, or send out of the house, slightlying (under pretext of friendship, or I know not what) a blessing so particularly adapted, predestined, I may say, to my individual palate—it argues an insensibility.

I remember a touch of conscience in this kind at school. My good old aunt, who never parted from me at the end of a holiday without stuffing a sweet- [330 meat, or some nice thing, into my pocket, had dismissed me one evening with a smoking plum-cake, fresh from the oven. In my way to school (it was over London Bridge) a gray-headed old beggar saluted me (I have no doubt at this time of day that he was a counterfeit). I had no pence to console him with, and in the vanity of self-denial, and the very coxcombry of charity, school-boy-like, [340 I made him a present of—the whole cake! I walked on a little, buoyed up, as one is on such occasions, with a sweet soothing of self-satisfaction; but before I had got to the end of the bridge, my better feelings returned, and I burst into tears, thinking

how ungrateful I had been to my good aunt, to go and give her good gift away to a stranger, that I had never seen before, and who might be a bad man for [350 aught I knew; and then I thought of the pleasure my aunt would be taking in thinking that I—I myself, and not another—would eat her nice cake—and what should I say to her the next time I saw her—how naughty I was to part with her pretty present—and the odor of that spicy cake came back upon my recollection, and the pleasure and the curiosity I had taken in seeing her make it, and [360 her joy when she sent it to the oven, and how disappointed she would feel that I had never had a bit of it in my mouth at last—and I blamed my impertinent spirit of alms-giving, and out-of-place hypocrisy of goodness, and above all I wished never to see the face again of that insidious, good-for-nothing, old gray impostor.

Our ancestors were nice in their [370 method of sacrificing these tender victims. We read of pigs whipped to death with something of a shock, as we hear of any other obsolete custom. The age of discipline is gone by, or it would be curious to inquire (in a philosophical light merely) what effect this process might have towards intenerating and dulcifying a substance, naturally so mild and dulcet as the flesh of young pigs. It looks [380 like refining a violet. Yet we should be cautious, while we condemn the inhumanity, how we censure the wisdom of the practice. It might impart a gusto—

I remember an hypothesis, argued upon by the young students, when I was at St. Omer's, and maintained with much learning and pleasantry on both sides, "Whether, supposing that the flavor of a pig who obtained his death by [390 whipping (*per flagellationem extremam*) superadded a pleasure upon the palate of a man more intense than any possible suffering we can conceive in the animal, is man justified in using that method of putting the animal to death?" I forget the decision.

His sauce should be considered. Decidedly, a few bread crumbs, done up with his liver and brains, and a dash [400

of mild sage. But, banish, dear Mrs. Cook, I beseech you, the whole onion tribe. Barbecue your whole hogs to your palate, steep them in shalots, stuff them out with plantations of the rank and guilty garlic; you cannot poison them, or make them stronger than they are—but consider, he is a weakling—a flower.

THE SUPERANNUATED MAN

*Sera tamen respexit
Libertas.* VIRGIL.

A Clerk I was in London gay.
O'KEEFE.

If peradventure, Reader, it has been thy lot to waste the golden years of thy life—thy shining youth—in the irksome confinement of an office; to have thy prison days prolonged through middle age down to decrepitude and silver hairs, without hope of release or respite; to have lived to forget that there are such things as holidays, or to remember them but as the prerogatives of childhood; [10 then, and then only, will you be able to appreciate my deliverance.

It is now six and thirty years since I took my seat at the desk in Mincing Lane. Melancholy was the transition at fourteen from the abundant playtime, and the frequently intervening vacations of school days, to the eight, nine, and sometimes ten hours' a-day attendance at a counting-house. But time par- [20 tially reconciles us to anything. I gradually became content—doggedly content, as wild animals in cages.

It is true I had my Sundays to myself; but Sundays, admirable as the institution of them is for purposes of worship, are for that very reason the very worst adapted for days of unbending and recreation. In particular, there is a gloom for me attendant upon a city Sunday, a [30 weight in the air. I miss the cheerful cries of London, the music, and the ballad-singers—the buzz and stirring murmur of the streets. Those eternal bells depress me. The closed shops repel me. Prints, pictures, all the glittering and

endless succession of knacks and gew-gaws, and ostentatiously displayed wares of tradesmen, which make a weekday saunter through the less busy parts [40 of the metropolis so delightful—are shut out. No book-stalls deliciously to idle over—No busy faces to recreate the idle man who contemplates them ever passing by—the very face of business a charm by contrast to his temporary relaxation from it. Nothing to be seen but unhappy countenances—or half-happy at best—of emancipated 'prentices and little trades-folks, with here and there a servant [50 maid that has got leave to go out, who, slaving all the week, with the habit has lost almost the capacity of enjoying a free hour; and lively expressing the hollowness of a day's pleasuring. The very strollers in the fields on that day looked anything but comfortable.

But besides Sundays I had a day at Easter, and a day at Christmas, with a full week in the summer to go and air [60 myself in my native fields of Hertfordshire. This last was a great indulgence; and the prospect of its recurrence, I believe, alone kept me up through the year, and made my durance tolerable. But when the week came round, did the glittering phantom of the distance keep touch with me? or rather was it not a series of seven uneasy days, spent in restless pursuit of pleasure, and a wearisome anxiety to [70 find out how to make the most of them? Where was the quiet, where the promised rest? Before I had a taste of it, it was vanished. I was at the desk again, counting upon the fifty-one tedious weeks that must intervene before such another snatch would come. Still the prospect of its coming threw something of an illumination upon the darker side of my captivity. Without it, as I have said, I could [80 scarcely have sustained my thralldom.

Independently of the rigors of attendance, I have ever been haunted with a sense (perhaps a mere caprice) of incapacity for business. This, during my latter years, had increased to such a degree, that it was visible in all the lines of my countenance. My health and my good spirits flagged. I had perpetually a dread of some crisis, to which I should [90

be found unequal. Besides my daylight servitude, I served over again all night in my sleep, and would awake with terrors of imaginary false entries, errors in my accounts, and the like. I was fifty years of age, and no prospect of emancipation presented itself. I had grown to my desk, as it were; and the wood had entered into my soul.

My fellows in the office would [100 sometimes rally me upon the trouble legible in my countenance; but I did not know that it had raised the suspicions of any of my employers, when on the 5th of last month, a day ever to be remembered by me, L——, the junior partner in the firm, calling me on one side, directly taxed me with my bad looks, and frankly inquired the cause of them. So taxed, I honestly made confession of [110 my infirmity, and added that I was afraid I should eventually be obliged to resign his service. He spoke some words of course to hearten me, and there the matter rested. A whole week I remained laboring under the impression that I had acted imprudently in my disclosure; that I had foolishly given a handle against myself, and had been anticipating my own dismissal. A week passed in [120 this manner, the most anxious one, I verily believe, in my whole life, when on the evening of the 12th of April, just as I was about quitting my desk to go home (it might be about eight o'clock) I received an awful summons to attend the presence of the whole assembled firm in the formidable back parlor. I thought now my time is surely come, I have done for myself, I am going to be told [130 that they have no longer occasion for me. L——, I could see, smiled at the terror I was in, which was a little relief to me,—when to my utter astonishment B——, the eldest partner, began a formal harangue to me on the length of my services, my very meritorious conduct during the whole of the time (the deuce, thought I, how did he find out that? I protest I never had the confidence to [140 think as much). He went on to descant on the expediency of retiring at a certain time of life (how my heart panted!), and asking me a few questions as to the

amount of my own property, of which I have a little, ended with a proposal, to which his three partners nodded a grave assent, that I should accept from the house, which I had served so well, a pension for life to the amount of two- [150 thirds of my accustomed salary—a magnificent offer! I do not know what I answered between surprise and gratitude, but it was understood that I accepted their proposal, and I was told that I was free from that hour to leave their service. I stammered out a bow, and at just ten minutes after eight I went home—for ever. This noble benefit—gratitude forbids me to conceal their names—I owe [160 to the kindness of the most munificent firm in the world—the house of Boldero, Merryweather, Bosanquet, and Lacy.

Esto perpetua!

For the first day or two I felt stunned, overwhelmed. I could only apprehend my felicity; I was too confused to taste it sincerely. I wandered about, thinking I was happy, and knowing that I was not. I was in the condition of a prisoner in [170 the Old Bastile, suddenly let loose after a forty years' confinement. I could scarce trust myself with myself. It was like passing out of Time into Eternity—for it is a sort of Eternity for a man to have his Time all to himself. It seemed to me that I had more time on my hands than I could ever manage. From a poor man, poor in Time, I was suddenly lifted up into a vast revenue; I could see no [180 end of my possessions; I wanted some steward, or judicious bailiff, to manage my estates in Time for me. And here let me caution persons grown old in active business, not lightly, nor without weighing their own resources, to forego their customary employment all at once, for there may be danger in it. I feel it by myself, but I know that my resources are sufficient; and now that those first [190 giddy raptures have subsided, I have a quiet home-feeling of the blessedness of my condition. I am in no hurry. Having all holidays, I am as though I had none. If Time hung heavy upon me, I could walk it away; but I do *not* walk all day long, as I used to do in those old

transient holidays, thirty miles a day, to make the most of them. If Time were troublesome, I could read it away, [200 but I do *not* read in that violent measure, with which, having no Time my own but candlelight Time, I used to weary out my head and eye-sight in by-gone winters. I walk, read, or scribble (as now) just when the fit seizes me. I no longer hunt after pleasure; I let it come to me. I am like the man

“that’s born, and has his years come to him,

In some green desert.” [210

“Years,” you will say; “what is this superannuated simpleton calculating upon? He has already told us he is past fifty.”

I have indeed lived nominally fifty years, but deduct out of them the hours which I have lived to other people, and not to myself, and you will find me still a young fellow. For *that* is the only true Time, which a man can properly call his own, that which he has all to himself; [220 the rest, though in some sense he may be said to live it, is other people’s time, not his. The remnant of my poor days, long or short, is at least multiplied for me threefold. My ten next years, if I stretch so far, will be as long as any preceding thirty. ’Tis a fair rule-of-three sum.

Among the strange fantasies which beset me at the commencement of my freedom, and of which all traces are [230 not yet gone, one was, that a vast tract of time had intervened since I quitted the Counting House. I could not conceive of it as an affair of yesterday. The partners, and the clerks with whom I had for so many years, and for so many hours in each day of the year been so closely associated—being suddenly removed from them—they seemed as dead to me. There is a fine passage, which may serve to [240 illustrate this fancy, in a tragedy by Sir Robert Howard, speaking of a friend’s death:—

“’Twas but just now he went away;
I have not since had time to shed a tear;
And yet the distance does the same appear
As if he had been a thousand years from me.

Time takes no measure in Eternity.”

To dissipate this awkward feeling, I have been fain to go among them [250 once or twice since; to visit my old desk-fellows—my co-brethren of the quill—that I had left below in the state militant. Not all the kindness with which they received me could quite restore to me that pleasant familiarity, which I had heretofore enjoyed among them. We cracked some of our old jokes, but methought they went off but faintly. My old desk; the peg where I hung my hat, were ap- [260 propriated to another. I knew it must be, but I could not take it kindly. D—I take me if I did not feel some remorse—beast, if I had not,—at quitting my old compeers, the faithful partners of my toils for six and thirty years, that smoothed for me with their jokes and conundrums the ruggedness of my professional road. Had it been so rugged then after all? or was I a coward [270 simply? Well, it is too late to repent; and I also know, that these suggestions are a common fallacy of the mind on such occasions. But my heart smote me. I had violently broken the bands betwixt us. It was at least not courteous. I shall be some time before I get quite reconciled to the separation. Farewell, old cronies, yet not for long, for again and again I will come among ye, if I [280 shall have your leave. Farewell, Ch—, dry, sarcastic, and friendly! Do—, mild, slow to move, and gentlemanly! Pl—, officious to do, and to volunteer, good services!—and thou, thou dreary pile, fit mansion for a Gresham or a Whittington of old stately House of Merchants; with thy labyrinthine passages, and light-excluding, pent-up offices, where candles for one half the year sup- [290 plied the place of the sun’s light; unhealthy contributor to my weal, stern fosterer of my living, farewell! In thee remain, and not in the obscure collection of some wandering bookseller, my “works!” There let them rest, as I do from my labors, piled on thy massy shelves, more MSS. in folio than ever Aquinas left, and full as useful! My mantle I bequeath among ye.

A fortnight has passed since the [300 date of my first communication. At that period I was approaching to tranquillity,

but had not reached it. I boasted of a calm indeed, but it was comparative only. Something of the first flutter was left; an unsettling sense of novelty; the dazzle to weak eyes of unaccustomed light. I missed my old chains, forsooth, as if they had been some necessary part of my apparel. I was a poor Carthusian, [310 from strict cellular discipline suddenly by some revolution returned upon the world. I am now as if I had never been other than my own master. It is natural to me to go where I please, to do what I please. I find myself at eleven o'clock in the day in Bond Street, and it seems to me that I have been sauntering there at that very hour for years past. I digress into Soho, to explore a book-stall. [320 Methinks I have been thirty years a collector. There is nothing strange nor new in it. I find myself before a fine picture in the morning. Was it ever otherwise? What is become of Fish Street Hill? Where is Fenchurch Street? Stones of old Mincing Lane which I have worn with my daily pilgrimage for six and thirty years, to the footsteps of what toil-worn clerk are your everlasting [330 flints now vocal? I indent the gayer flags of Pall Mall. It is 'Change time, and I am strangely among the Elgin marbles. It was no hyperbole when I ventured to compare the change in my condition to a passing into another world. Time stands still in a manner to me. I have lost all distinction of season. I do not know the day of the week, or of the month. Each day used to be indi- [340 vidually felt by me in its reference to the foreign post days; in its distance from, or propinquity to the next Sunday. I had my Wednesday feelings, my Saturday nights' sensations. The genius of each day was upon me distinctly during the whole of it, affecting my appetite, spirits, &c. The phantom of the next day, with the dreary five to follow, sate as a load upon my poor Sabbath recrea- [350 tions. What charm has washed the Ethiop white? What is gone of Black

Monday? All days are the same. Sunday itself—that unfortunate failure of a holiday as it too often proved, what with my sense of its fugitiveness, and over-care to get the greatest quantity of pleasure out of it—is melted down into a week day. I can spare to go to church now, without grudging the huge [360 cantle which it used to seem to cut out of the holiday. I have Time for everything. I can visit a sick friend. I can interrupt the man of much occupation when he is busiest. I can insult over him with an invitation to take a day's pleasure with me to Windsor this fine May-morning. It is Lucretian pleasure to behold the poor drudges, whom I have left behind in the world, carking and [370 caring; like horses in a mill, drudging on in the same eternal round—and what is it all for? A man can never have too much Time to himself, nor too little to do. Had I a little son, I would christen him NOTHING-TO-DO; he should do nothing. Man, I verily believe, is out of his element, as long as he is operative. I am altogether for the life contemplative. Will no kindly earthquake come and [380 swallow up those accursed cotton mills? Take me that lumber of a desk there, and bowl it down

As low as to the fiends.

I am no longer —, clerk to the firm of, &c. I am Retired Leisure. I am to be met with in trim gardens. I am already come to be known by my vacant face and careless gesture, perambulating at no fixed pace nor with any settled pur- [390 pose. I walk about; not to and from. They tell me, a certain *cum dignitate* air, that has been buried so long with my other good parts, has begun to shoot forth in my person. I grow into gentility perceptibly. When I take up a newspaper it is to read the state of the opera. *Opus operatum est*. I have done all that I came into this world to do. I have worked task-work, and have the rest of the [400 day to myself.

WILLIAM HAZLITT (1778-1830)

THE FIGHT

“—The fight, the fight’s the thing
Wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the
King.”

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.—I said so to myself, as I walked down Chancery-lane, about half-past six o’clock on Monday the 10th of December, to inquire at Jack Randall’s where the fight the next day was to be; and I found “the proverb” nothing “musty” in the present instance. I was determined to see this fight, come what would, and see it I did, in great style. It was my *first fight*, [10 yet it more than answered my expectations. Ladies! it is to you I dedicate this description; nor let it seem out of character for the fair to notice the exploits of the brave. Courage and modesty are the old English virtues; and may they never look cold and askance on one another! Think, ye fairest of the fair, loveliest of the lovely kind, ye practisers of soft enchantment, how many more ye kill [20 with poisoned baits than ever fell in the ring; and listen with subdued air and without shuddering, to a tale tragic only in appearance, and sacred to the FANCY!

I was going down Chancery-lane, thinking to ask at Jack Randall’s where the fight was to be, when looking through the glass door of the *Hole in The Wall*, I heard a gentleman asking the same question at Mrs. Randall, as the [30 author of *Waverley* would express it. Now Mrs. Randall stood answering the gentleman’s question, with the authenticity of the lady of the Champion of the Light Weights. Thinks I, I’ll wait till this person comes out, and learn from him how it is. For to say a truth, I was not fond of going into this house of call for heroes and philosophers, ever since the owner of it (for Jack is no gentle- [40 man) threatened once upon a time to kick me out of doors for wanting a mutton-chop at his hospitable board, when the conqueror in thirteen battles was more full of *blue ruin* than of good manners. I was the more mortified at this

repulse, inasmuch as I had heard Mr. James Simpkins, hosier in the Strand, one day when the character of the *Hole in the Wall* was brought in question, [50 observe—“The house is a very good house, and the company quite genteel: I have been there myself!” Remembering this unkind treatment of mine host, to which mine hostess was also a party, and not wishing to put her in unquiet thoughts at a time jubilant like the present, I waited at the door, when who should issue forth but my friend Jo. Toms, and turning suddenly up Chancery- [60 lane with that quick jerk and impatient stride which distinguishes a lover of the FANCY, I said, “I’ll be hanged if that fellow is not going to the fight, and is on his way to get me to go with him.” So it proved in effect, and we agreed to adjourn to my lodgings to discuss matters with that cordiality which makes old friends like new, and new friends like old, on great occasions. We are cold [70 to others only when we are dull in ourselves, and have neither thoughts nor feelings to impart to them. Give a man a topic in his head, a throb of pleasure in his heart, and he will be glad to share it with the first person he meets. Toms and I, though we seldom meet, were an *alter idem* on this memorable occasion, and had not an idea that we did not candidly impart; and “so carelessly [80 did we fleet the time,” that I wish no better, when there is another fight, than to have him for a companion on my journey down, and to return with my friend Jack Pigott, talking of what was to happen or of what did happen, with a noble subject always at hand, and liberty to digress to others whenever they offered. Indeed, on my repeating the lines from Spenser in an involuntary fit of en- [90 thusiasm,

“What more felicity can fall to creature
Than to enjoy delight with liberty?”

my last-named ingenious friend stopped me by saying that this, translated into the vulgate, meant “*Going to see a fight.*”

Jo. Toms and I could not settle about the method of going down. He said there was a caravan, he understood, to start

from Tom Belcher's at two, which [100 would go there *right out* and back again the next day. Now I never travel all night, and said I should get a cast to Newbury by one of the mails. Jo. swore the thing was impossible, and I could only answer that I had made up my mind to it. In short, he seemed to me to waver, said he only came to see if I was going, had letters to write, a cause coming on the day after, and faintly said at [110 parting (for I was bent on setting out that moment)—“Well, we meet at Philippi!” I made the best of my way to Piccadilly. The mail coach stand was bare. “They are all gone,” said I—“this is always the way with me—in the instant I lose the future—if I had not stayed to pour out that last cup of tea, I should have been just in time”—and cursing my folly and ill-luck to- [120 gether, without inquiring at the coach-office whether the mails were gone or not, I walked on in despite, and to punish my own dilatoriness and want of determination. At any rate, I would not turn back: I might get to Hounslow, or perhaps farther, to be on my road the next morning. I passed Hyde Park Corner (my Rubicon), and trusted to fortune. Suddenly I heard the clat- [130 tering of a Brentford stage, and the fight rushed full upon my fancy. I argued (not unwisely) that even a Brentford coachman was better company than my own thoughts (such as they were just then), and at his invitation mounted the box with him. I immediately stated my case to him—namely, my quarrel with myself for missing the Bath or Bristol mail, and my determination to get [140 on in consequence as well as I could, without any disparagement or insulting comparison between longer or shorter stages. It is a maxim with me that stage-coaches and consequently stage-coachmen, are respectable in proportion to the distance they have to travel; so I said nothing on that subject to my Brentford friend. Any incipient tendency to an abstract proposition, or (as he might have con- [150 strued it) to a personal reflection of this kind, was however nipped in the bud; for I had no sooner declared indignantly that

I had missed the mails, than he flatly denied that they were gone along, and lo! at the instant three of them drove by in rapid, provoking, orderly succession, as if they would devour the ground before them. Here again I seemed in the contradictory situation of the [160 man in Dryden who exclaims:

“I follow Fate, which does too hard pursue!”

If I had stopped to inquire at the White Horse Cellar, which would not have taken me a minute, I should now have been driving down the road in all the dignified unconcern and *ideal* perfection of mechanical conveyance. The Bath mail I had set my mind upon, and I had missed it, as I missed every- [170 thing else, by my own absurdity, in putting the will for the deed, and aiming at ends without employing means. “Sir,” said he of the Brentford, “the Bath mail will be up presently; my brother-in-law drives it, and I will engage to stop him if there is a place empty.” I almost doubted my good genius; but, sure enough, up it drove like lightning, and stopped directly at the call of the Brentford [180 Jehu. I would not have believed this possible, but the brother-in-law of a mail-coach driver is himself no mean man. I was transferred without loss of time from the top of one coach to that of the other, desired the guard to pay my fare to the Brentford coachman for me as I had no change, was accommodated with a great-coat, put up my umbrella to keep off a drizzling mist, and we began to cut [190 through the air like an arrow. The milestones disappeared one after another, the rain kept off; Tom Turtle, the trainer, sat before me on the coach-box, with whom I exchanged civilities as a gentleman going to the fight; the passion that had transported me an hour before was subdued to pensive regret and conjectural musing on the next day's battle; I was promised a place inside at Read- [200 ing, and upon the whole, I thought myself a lucky fellow. Such is the force of imagination! On the outside of any other coach on the 10th of December, with a Scotch mist drizzling through the

cloudy moonlight air, I should have been cold, comfortless, impatient and, no doubt, wet through; but seated on the Royal mail, I felt warm and comfortable, the air did me good, the ride did me [210 good, I was pleased with the progress we had made, and confident that all would go well through the journey. When I got inside at Reading, I found Turtle and a stout valetudinarian, whose costume bespoke him one of the FANCY, and who had risen from a three months' sick bed to get into the mail to see the fight. They were intimate, and we fell into a lively discourse. My friend the [220 trainer was confined in his topics to fighting dogs and men, to bears and badgers; beyond this he was "quite chap-fallen," had not a word to throw at a dog, or indeed very wisely fell asleep, when any other game was started. The whole art of training (I, however, learned from him) consists in two things, exercise and abstinence, abstinence and exercise, repeated alternately and without end. [230 A yolk of an egg with a spoonful of rum in it is the first thing in a morning, and then a walk of six miles till breakfast. This meal consists of a plentiful supply of tea and toast and beef-steaks. Then another six or seven miles till dinner-time, and another supply of solid beef or mutton with a pint of porter, and perhaps, at the utmost, a couple of glasses of sherry. Martin trains on water, but this in- [240 creases his infirmity on another very dangerous side. The Gas-man takes now and then a chirping glass (under the rose) to console him, during a six weeks' probation, for the absence of Mrs. Hickman—an agreeable woman, with (I understand) a pretty fortune of two hundred pounds. How matter presses on me! What stubborn things are facts! How inexhaustible is nature and art! "It is well," as [250 I once heard Mr. Richmond observe, "to see a variety." He was speaking of cock-fighting as an edifying spectacle. I cannot deny that one learns more of what *is* (I do not say of what *ought to be*) in this desultory mode of practical study, than from reading the same book twice over, even though it should be a moral treatise. Where was I? I was sitting at

dinner with the candidate for the [260 honors of the ring, "where good digestion waits on appetite, and health on both." Then follows an hour of social chat and native glee; and afterwards, to another breathing over heathy hill or dale. Back to supper, and then to bed, and up by six again.—Our hero

"Follows so the ever-running sun
With profitable *ardor*"—

to the day that brings him victory [270 or defeat in the green fairy circle. Is not this life more sweet than mine? I was going to say; but I will not libel any life by comparing it to mine, which is (at the date of these presents) bitter as *coliquintida* and the dregs of *aconitum*!

The invalid in the Bath mail soared a pitch above the trainer, and did not sleep so sound, because he had "more figures and more fantasies." We talked the [280 hours away merrily. He had faith in surgery, for he had had three ribs set right, that had been broken in a *turn-up* at Belcher's, but thought physicians old women, for they had no antidote in their catalogue for brandy. An indigestion is an excellent common-place for two people that never met before. By way of ingratiating myself, I told him the story of my doctor, who, on my earnestly rep- [290 resenting to him that I thought his regimen had done me harm, assured me that the whole pharmacopeia contained nothing comparable to the prescription he had given me; and, as a proof of its undoubted efficacy, said that "he had had one gentleman with my complaint under his hands for the last fifteen years." This anecdote made my companion shake the rough sides of his three great- [300 coats with boisterous laughter; and Turtle, starting out of his sleep, swore he knew how the fight would go, for he had had a dream about it. Sure enough the rascal told us how the first three rounds went off, but his "dream," like others, "denoted a foregone conclusion." He knew his men. The moon now rose in silver state, and I ventured, with some hesitation, to point out this object of [310 placid beauty, with the blue serene beyond, to the man of science, to which

his ear he "seriously inclined," the more as it gave promise *d'un beau jour* for the morrow, and showed the ring undrenched by envious showers, arrayed in sunny smiles. Just then, all going on well, I thought on my friend Toms, whom I had left behind, and said innocently, "There was a blockhead of a fellow [320 I left in town, who said there was no possibility of getting down by the mail, and talked of going by a caravan from Belcher's at two in the morning, after he had written some letters." "Why," said he of the lapels, "I should not wonder if that was the very person we saw running about like mad from one coach-door to another, and asking if any one had seen a friend of his, a gentleman going to [330 the fight, whom he had missed stupidly enough by staying to write a note." "Pray, sir," said my fellow traveller, "had he a plaid cloak on?"—"Why, no," said I, "not at the time I left him, but he very well might afterwards, for he offered to lend me one." The plaid cloak and the letter decided the thing. Joe, sure enough, was in the Bristol mail, which preceded us by about fifty [340 yards. This was droll enough. We had now but a few miles to our place of destination, and the first thing I did on alighting at Newbury, both coaches stopping at the same time, was to call out, "Pray, is there a gentleman in that mail of the name of Toms?" "No," said Joe, borrowing something of the vein of Gilpin, "for I have just got out." "Well!" says he, "this is lucky; but you don't [350 know how vexed I was to miss you; for," added he, lowering his voice, "do you know when I left you I went to Belcher's to ask about the caravan, and Mrs. Belcher said very obligingly she couldn't tell about that, but there were two gentlemen who had taken places by the mail and were gone on in a landau, and she could frank us. It's a pity I didn't meet with you; we could then have got [360 down for nothing. But *mum's the word*." It's the devil for any one to tell me a secret, for it's sure to come out in print. I do not care so much to gratify a friend, but the public ear is too great a temptation to me.

Our present business was to get beds and a supper at an inn; but this was no easy task. The public-houses were full, and where you saw a light at a private [370 house, and people poking their heads out of the casement to see what was going on, they instantly put them in and shut the window, the moment you seemed advancing with a suspicious overture for accommodation. Our guard and coachman thundered away at the outer gate of the Crown for some time without effect—such was the greater noise within; and when the doors were unbarred, and [380 we got admittance, we found a party assembled in the kitchen round a good hospitable fire, some sleeping, others drinking, others talking on politics and on the fight. A tall English yeoman (something like Matthews in the face, and quite as great a wag)—

"A lusty man to ben an abbot able"

was making such a prodigious noise about rent and taxes, and the price of corn [390 now and formerly, that he had prevented us from being heard at the gate. The first thing I heard him say was to a shuffling fellow who wanted to be off a bet for a shilling glass of brandy and water—"Confound it, man, don't be *insipid*!" Thinks I, that is a good phrase. It was a good omen. He kept it up so all night, nor flinched with the approach of morning. He was a fine fellow, with [400 sense, wit, and spirit, a hearty body and a joyous mind, free-spoken, frank, convivial—one of that true English breed that went with Harry the Fifth to the siege of Harfleur—"standing like grayhounds in the slips," &c. We ordered tea and eggs (beds were soon found to be out of the question) and this fellow's conversation was *sauce piquante*. It did one's heart good to see him brandish [410 his oaken towel and to hear him talk. He made mince-meat of a drunken, stupid, red-faced, quarrelsome, *frowsy* farmer, whose nose "he moralized into a thousand similes," making it out a firebrand like Bardolph's. "I'll tell you what, my friend," says he, "the landlady has only to keep you here to save fire and candle. If one was to touch your nose, it would

go off like a piece of charcoal." At [420 this the other only grinned like an idiot, the sole variety in his purple face being his little peering gray eyes and yellow teeth; called for another glass, swore he would not stand it; and after many attempts to provoke his humorous antagonist to single combat, which the other turned off (after working him up to a ludicrous pitch of choler) with great adroitness, he fell quietly asleep with [430 a glass of liquor in his hand, which he could not lift to his head. His laughing persecutor made a speech over him, and turning to the opposite side of the room, where they were all sleeping in the midst of this "loud and furious fun," said, "There's a scene for Hogarth to paint. I think he and Shakespeare were our two best men at copying life." This confirmed me in my good opinion of him. Ho- [440 garth, Shakespeare, and Nature, were just enough for him (indeed for any man) to know. I said, "You read Cobbett, don't you? At least," says I, "you talk just as well as he writes." He seemed to doubt this. But I said, "We have an hour to spare: if you'll get pen, ink, and paper, and keep on talking, I'll write down what you say; and if it doesn't make a capital 'Political Register' [450 I'll forfeit my head. You have kept me alive to-night, however. I don't know what I should have done without you." He did not dislike this view of the thing, nor my asking if he was not about the size of Jem Belcher; and told me soon afterwards, in the confidence of friendship, that "the circumstance which had given him nearly the greatest concern in his life, was Cribb's beating Jem after he [460 had lost his eye by racket-playing."—The morning dawns; that dim but yet clear light appears, which weighs like solid bars of metal on the sleepless eyelids; the guests drop down from their chambers one by one—but it was too late to think of going to bed now (the clock was on the stroke of seven), we had nothing for it but to find a barber's (the pole that glittered in the morning sun [470 lighted us to his shop), and then a nine miles' march to Hungerford. The day was fine, the sky was blue, the mists were

retiring from the marshy ground, the path was tolerably dry, the sitting-up all night had not done us much harm—at least the cause was good; we talked of this and that with amicable difference, roving and sipping of many subjects, but still invariably we returned to the [480 fight. At length, a mile to the left of Hungerford, on a gentle eminence, we saw the ring surrounded by covered carts, gigs, and carriages, of which hundreds had passed us on the road; Toms gave a youthful shout, and we hastened down a narrow lane to the scene of action.

Reader, have you ever seen a fight? If not, you have a pleasure to come, at least if it is a fight like that between [490 the Gas-man and Bill Neate. The crowd was very great when we arrived on the spot; open carriages were coming up, with streamers flying and music playing; and the country people were pouring in over hedge and ditch in all directions, to see their hero beat or be beaten. The odds were still on Gas, but only about five to four. Gully had been down to try Neate, and had backed him con- [500 siderably, which was a damper to the sanguine confidence of the adverse party. About two hundred thousand pounds were pending. The Gas says he has lost 3000*l.* which were promised him by different gentlemen if he had won. He had presumed too much on himself, which had made others presume on him. This spirited and formidable young fellow seems to have taken for his motto [510 the old maxim, that "there are three things necessary to success in life—*Impudence! Impudence! Impudence!*" It is so in matters of opinion, but not in the FANCY, which is the most practical of all things, though even here confidence is half the battle, but only half. Our friend had vaped and swaggered too much, as if he wanted to grin and bully his adversary out of the fight. "Alas! the [520 Bristol man was not so tamed!" "This is the *grave-digger*" (would Tom Hickman exclaim in the moments of intoxication from gin and success, showing his tremendous right hand), "this will send many of them to their long homes; I haven't done with them yet!" Why

should he—though he had licked four of the best men within the hour, yet why should he threaten to inflict dis- [530] honorable chastisement on my old master Richmond, a veteran going off the stage, and who had borne his sable honors meekly? Magnanimity, my dear Tom, and bravery, should be inseparable. Or why should he go up to his antagonist, the first time he ever saw him at the Fives Court, and measuring him from head to foot with a glance of contempt, as Achilles surveyed Hector, say to [540] him, "What, are you Bill Neate? I'll knock more blood out of that great carcase of thine, this day fortnight, than you ever knocked out of a bullock's!" It was not manly, 'twas not fighter-like. If he was sure of the victory (as he was not), the less said about it the better. Modesty should accompany the FANCY as its shadow. The best men were always the best behaved. Jem Belcher, the [550] Game Chicken, (before whom the Gas-man could not have lived) were civil, silent men. So is Cribb, so is Tom Belcher, the most elegant of sparrers, and not a man for every one to take by the nose. I enlarged on this topic in the mail (while Turtle was asleep), and said very wisely (as I thought) that impertinence was a part of no profession. A boxer was bound to beat his man, but not to [560] thrust his fist, either actually or by implication, in every one's face. Even a highwayman, in the way of trade, may blow out your brains, but if he uses foul language at the same time, I should say he was no gentleman. A boxer, I would infer, need not be a blackguard or a coxcomb, more than another. Perhaps I press this point too much on a fallen man—Mr. Thomas Hickman has by [570] this time learnt that first of all lessons, "That man was made to mourn." He has lost nothing by the late fight but his presumption; and that every man may do as well without! By an over-display of this quality, however, the public had been prejudiced against him, and the *knowing-ones* were taken in. Few but those who had bet on him wished Gas to win. With my own prepossessions [580] on the subject, the result of the 11th of

December appeared to me as fine a piece of poetical justice as I had ever witnessed. The difference of weight between the two combatants (14 stone to 12) was nothing to the sporting men. Great, heavy, clumsy, long-armed Bill Neate kicked the beam in the scale of the Gas-man's vanity. The amateurs were frightened at his big words, and thought that [590] they would make up for the difference of six feet and five feet nine. Truly, the FANCY are not men of imagination. They judge of what has been, and cannot conceive of anything that is to be. The Gas-man had won hitherto; therefore he must beat a man half as big again as himself—and that to a certainty. Besides, there are as many feuds, factions, prejudices, pedantic notions in the [600] FANCY as in the state or in the schools. Mr. Gully is almost the only cool, sensible man among them, who exercises an unbiassed discretion, and is not a slave to his passions in these matters. But enough of reflections, and to our tale. The day, as I have said, was fine for a December morning. The grass was wet, and the ground miry, and ploughed up with multitudinous feet, except that, within [610] the ring itself, there was a spot of virgin-green closed in and unprofaned by vulgar feet, that shone with dazzling brightness in the mid-day sun. For it was now noon, and we had an hour to wait. This is the trying time. It is then the heart sickens, as you think what the two champions are about, and how short a time will determine their fate. After the first blow is struck, there is no oppor- [620] tunity for nervous apprehensions; you are swallowed up in the immediate interest of the scene—but

"Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream."

I found it so as I felt the sun's rays clinging to my back, and saw the white wintry clouds sink below the verge of the horizon. "So," I thought, "my fairest hopes [630] have faded from my sight!—so will the Gas-man's glory, or that of his adversary, vanish in an hour." The *swells* were parading in their white box-coats, the

outer ring was cleared with some bruises on the heads and shins of the rustic assembly (for the *cockneys* had been distanced by the sixty-six miles); the time drew near, I had got a good stand; a bustle, a buzz, ran through the crowd, [640 and from the opposite side entered Neate, between his second and bottle-holder. He rolled along, swathed in his loose great-coat, his knock-knees bending under his huge bulk; and with a modest, cheerful air, threw his hat into the ring. He then just looked round, and began quietly to undress; when from the other side there was a similar rush and an opening made, and the Gas-man came forward with [650 a conscious air of anticipated triumph, too much like the cock-of-the-walk. He strutted about more than became a hero, sucked oranges with a supercilious air, and threw away the skin with a toss of his head, and went up and looked at Neate, which was an act of supererogation. The only sensible thing he did was, as he strode away from the modern Ajax, to fling out his arms, as if he wanted [660 to try whether they would do their work that day. By this time they had stripped, and presented a strong contrast in appearance. If Neate was like Ajax, "with Atlantean shoulders, fit to bear" the pugilistic reputation of all Bristol, Hickman might be compared to Diomed, light, vigorous, elastic, and his back glistened in the sun, as he moved about, like a panther's hide. There was now a [670 dead pause—attention was awe-struck. Who, at that moment, big with a great event, did not draw his breath short, did not feel his heart throb? All was ready. They tossed up for the sun, and the Gas-man won. They were led up to the *scratch*—shook hands, and went at it.

In the first round every one thought it was all over. After making play a short time, the Gas-man flew at his [680 adversary like a tiger, struck five blows in as many seconds, three first, and then following him as he staggered back, two more, right and left, and down he fell, a mighty ruin. There was a shout, and I said, "There is no standing this." Neate seemed like a lifeless lump of flesh and bone, round which the Gas-man's

blows played with the rapidity of electricity or lightning, and you imag- [690 ined he would only be lifted up to be knocked down again. It was as if Hickman held a sword or a fire in that right hand of his, and directed it against an unarmed body. They met again, and Neate seemed, not cowed, but particularly cautious. I saw his teeth clenched together and his brows knit close against the sun. He held out both his arms at full length straight before him, like [700 two sledge-hammers, and raised his left an inch or two higher. The Gas-man could not get over this guard—they struck mutually and fell, but without advantage on either side. It was the same in the next round; but the balance of power was thus restored—the fate of the battle was suspended. No one could tell how it would end. This was the only moment in which opinion was divided; for, [710 in the next, the Gas-man aiming a mortal blow at his adversary's neck, with his right hand, and failing from the length he had to reach, the other returned it with his left at full swing, planted a tremendous blow on his cheek-bone and eyebrow, and made a red ruin of that side of his face. The Gas-man went down, and there was another shout—a roar of triumph as the waves of fortune rolled [720 tumultuously from side to side. This was a settler. Hickman got up, and "grinned horrible a ghastly smile," yet he was evidently dashed in his opinion of himself; it was the first time he had ever been so punished; all one side of his face was perfect scarlet, and his right eye was closed in dingy blackness, as he advanced to the fight, less confident but still determined. After one or two [730 rounds, not receiving another such remembrancer, he rallied and went at it with his former impetuosity. But in vain. His strength had been weakened,—his blows could not tell at such a distance,—he was obliged to fling himself at his adversary, and could not strike from his feet; and almost as regularly as he flew at him with his right hand, Neate warded the blow, or drew back out of its [740 reach, and felled him with the return of his left. There was little cautious spar-

ring—no half-hits—no tapping and trifling, none of the *petit-maitreship* of the art—they were almost all knockdown blows:—the fight was a good stand-up fight. The wonder was the half-minute time. If there had been a minute or more allowed between each round, it would have been intelligible how they should by de- [750] grees recover strength and resolution; but to see two men smashed to the ground, smeared with gore, stunned, senseless, the breath beaten out of their bodies; and then, before you recover from the shock, to see them rise up with new strength and courage, stand ready to inflict or receive mortal offence, and rush upon each other “like two clouds over the Caspian”—this is the most as- [760] tonishing thing of all:—this is the high and heroic state of man! From this time forward the event became more certain every round; and about the twelfth it seemed as if it must have been over. Hickman generally stood with his back to me; but in the scuffle he had changed positions, and Neate just then made a tremendous lunge at him, and hit him full in the face. It was doubtful [770] whether he would fall backwards or forwards; he hung suspended for a second or two, and then fell back, throwing his hands in the air, and with his face lifted up to the sky. I never saw anything more terrific than his aspect just before he fell. All traces of life, of natural expression, were gone from him. His face was like a human skull, a death’s head, spouting blood. The eyes were filled [780] with blood, the nose streamed with blood, the mouth gaped blood. He was not like an actual man, but like a preternatural, spectral appearance, or like one of the figures in Dante’s *Inferno*. Yet he fought on after this for several rounds, still striking the first desperate blow, and Neate standing on the defensive, and using the same cautious guard to the last, as if he had still all his work [790] to do; and it was not until the Gas-man was so stunned in the seventeenth or eighteenth round that his senses forsook him and he could not come to time, that the battle was declared over.¹ ‘Ye who

despise the Fancy, do something to show as much *pluck*, or as much self-possession as this, before you assume a superiority which you have never given a single proof of by any one action in the whole [800] course of your lives!—When the Gas-man came to himself the first words he uttered were, “Where am I? What is the matter?” “Nothing is the matter, Tom,—you have lost the battle, but you are the bravest man alive.” And Jackson whispered to him, “I am collecting a purse for you, Tom.”—Vain sounds, and unheard at that moment! Neate instantly went up and shook him cordially by [810] the hand, and seeing some old acquaintance, began to flourish with his fists, calling out, “Ah, you always said I couldn’t fight—What do you think now?” But all in good humor, and without any appearance of arrogance; only it was evident Bill Neate was pleased that he had won the fight. When it was over I asked Cribb if he did not think it was a good one. He said, “*Pretty well!*” [820] The carrier-pigeons now mounted into the air, and one of them flew with the news of her husband’s victory to the bosom of Mrs. Neate. Alas for Mrs. Hickman!

Mais au revoir, as Sir Fopling Flutter says. I went down with Toms; I returned with Jack Pigott, whom I met on the ground. Toms is a rattle brain; Pigott is a sentimentalist. Now, under favor, [830] I am a sentimentalist too—therefore I say nothing but that the interest of the excursion did not flag as I came back. Pigott and I marched along the causeway leading from Hungerford to Newbury, now observing the effect of a brilliant sun on the tawny meads or moss-colored cottages, now exulting in the fight, now digressing to some topic of general and elegant literature. My friend was [840] dressed in character for the occasion, or like one of the FANCY: that is, with a double portion of great-coats, clogs, and overhauls; and just as we had agreed with a couple of country lads to carry

a man of that courage that if his hands were cut off, he would still fight on with the stumps—like that of Widington,—

“In doleful dumps,
Who, when his legs were smitten off
Still fought upon his stumps.”—(Hazlitt’s Note).

¹ Scroggins said of the Gas-man, that he thought he was

his superfluous wearing-apparel to the next town, we were overtaken by a return post-chaise, into which I got, Pigott preferring a seat on the bar. There were two strangers already in the chaise, [850 and on their observing they supposed I had been to the fight, I said I had, and concluded they had done the same. They appeared, however, a little shy and sore on the subject; and it was not till after several hints dropped, and questions put, that it turned out that they had missed it. One of these friends had undertaken to drive the other there in his gig: they had set out, to make [860 sure work, the day before at three in the afternoon. The owner of the one-horse vehicle scorned to ask his way, and drove right on to Bagshot, instead of turning off at Hounslow; there they stopped all night, and set off the next day across the country to Reading, from whence they took coach, and got down within a mile or two of Hungerford, just half an hour after the fight was over. This might [870 be safely set down as one of the miseries of human life. We parted with these two gentlemen who had been to see the fight, but had returned as they went, at Wolhampton, where we were promised beds (an irresistible temptation, for Pigott had passed the preceding night at Hungerford as we had done at Newbury), and we turned into an old bow-windowed parlor with a carpet and a snug fire; [880 and after devouring a quantity of tea, toast, and eggs, sat down to consider, during an hour of philosophic leisure, what we should have for supper. In the midst of an Epicurean deliberation between a roasted fowl and mutton chops with mashed potatoes, we were interrupted by an inroad of Goths and Vandals—*O procul este profani*—not real flash-men, but interlopers, noisy [890 pretenders, butchers from Tothill-fields, brokers from Whitechapel, who called immediately for pipes and tobacco, hoping it would not be disagreeable to the gentlemen, and began to insist that it was a *cross*. Pigott withdrew from the smoke and noise into another room, and left me to dispute the point with them for a couple of hours *sans intermis-*

sion by the dial. The next morning [900 we rose refreshed; and on observing that Jack had a pocket volume in his hand, in which he read in the intervals of our discourse, I inquired what it was, and learned to my particular satisfaction that it was a volume of the *New Eloise*. Ladies after this will you contend that a love for the FANCY is incompatible with the cultivation of sentiment?—We jogged on as before, my friend setting me up in a [910 genteel drab great-coat and green silk handkerchief (which I must say became me exceedingly), and after stretching our legs for a few miles, and seeing Jack Randall, Ned Turner, and Scroggins pass on the top of one of the Bath coaches, we engaged with the driver of the second to take us to London for the usual fee. I got inside, and found three other passengers. One of them was an old gentle- [920 man with an aquiline nose, powdered hair, and a pigtail, and who looked as if he had played many a rubber at the Bath rooms. I said to myself, he is very like Mr. Windham; I wish he would enter into conversation, that I might hear what fine observations would come from those finely-turned features. However, nothing passed, till, stopping to dine at Reading, some inquiry was made by [930 the company about the fight, and I gave (as the reader may believe) an eloquent and animated description of it. When we got into the coach again the old gentleman, after a graceful exordium, said he had when a boy been to a fight between the famous Broughton and George Stevenson, who was called the *Fighting Coachman*, in the year 1770, with the late Mr. Windham. This beginning flattered [940 the spirit of prophecy within me and riveted my attention. He went on—“George Stevenson was coachman to a friend of my father’s. He was an old man when I saw him some years afterwards. He took hold of his own arm and said ‘there was muscle here once, but now it is no more than this young gentleman’s.’ He added, ‘well, no matter; I have been here long, I am willing to go hence, and I hope I [950 have done no more harm than another man.’ Once,” said my unknown companion, “I asked him if he had ever beat

Broughton? He said yes; that he had fought with him three times, and the last time he fairly beat him, though the world did not allow it. 'I'll tell you how it was, master. When the seconds lifted us up in the last round, we were so exhausted that neither of us could stand, and we fell [960 upon one another, and as Master Broughton fell uppermost the mob gave it in his favor, and he was said to have won the battle. But,' says he, 'the fact was, that as his second (John Cuthbert) lifted him up, he said to him, "I'll fight no more, I've had enough;" which,' says Stevenson, 'you know gave me the victory. And to prove to you that this was the case, when John Cuthbert was on [970 his death-bed, and they asked him if there was anything on his mind which he wished to confess, he answered, "Yes, that there was one thing he wished to set right, for that certainly Master Stevenson won that last fight with Master Broughton; for he whispered him as he lifted him up in the last round of all, that he had had enough." This,' said the Bath gentleman, "was a bit of hu- [980 man nature;" and I have written this account of the fight on purpose that it might not be lost to the world. He also stated as a proof of the candor of mind in this class of men, that Stevenson acknowledged that Broughton could have beat him in his best day; but that he (Broughton) was getting old in their last encounter. When we stopped in Piccadilly I wanted to ask the gentleman some [990 questions about the late Mr. Windham, but had not courage. I got out, resigned my coat and green silk handkerchief to Pigott (loth to part with these ornaments of life), and walked home in high spirits.

P. S. Toms called upon me the next day, to ask me if I did not think the fight was a complete thing. I said I thought it was. I hope he will relish my account of it.

ON GOING A JOURNEY

One of the pleasantest things in the world is going a journey; but I like to go by myself. I can enjoy society in a room; but out of doors, nature is company

enough for me. I am then never less alone than when alone.

"The fields his study, nature was his book."

I cannot see the wit of walking and talking at the same time. When I am in the country I wish to vegetate like [10 the country. I am not for criticising hedgerows and black cattle. I go out of town in order to forget the town and all that is in it. There are those who for this purpose go to watering-places, and carry the metropolis with them. I like more elbow-room and fewer encumbrances. I like solitude, when I give myself up to it, for the sake of solitude; nor do I ask for

"a friend in my retreat, [20
Whom I may whisper solitude is sweet."

The soul of a journey is liberty, perfect liberty, to think, feel, do just as one pleases. We go a journey chiefly to be free of all impediments and of all inconveniences; to leave ourselves behind, much more to get rid of others. It is because I want a little breathing-space to muse on indifferent matters, where Contemplation

"May plume her feathers and let grow
her wings, [30
That in the various bustle of resort
Were all too ruffled, and sometimes im-
paired,"

that I absent myself from the town for a while, without feeling at a loss the moment I am left by myself. Instead of a friend in a post-chaise or in a Tilbury, to exchange good things with, and vary the same stale topics over again, for once let me have a truce with impertinence. Give me the clear blue sky over my [40 head, and the green turf beneath my feet, a winding road before me, and a three hours' march to dinner—and then to thinking! It is hard if I cannot start some game on these lone heaths. I laugh, I run, I leap, I sing for joy. From the point of yonder rolling cloud I plunge into my past being, and revel there, as the sun-burnt Indian plunges headlong into the wave that wafts him to his [50 native shore. Then long-forgotten things, like "sunken wrack and sumless treas-

uries," burst upon my eager sight, and I begin to feel, think, and be myself again. Instead of an awkward silence, broken by attempts at wit or dull common-places, mine is that undisturbed silence of the heart which alone is perfect eloquence. No one likes puns, alliterations, antitheses, argument, and analysis [60 better than I do; but I sometimes had rather be without them. "Leave, oh, leave me to my repose!" I have just now other business in hand, which would seem idle to you, but is with me "very stuff o' the conscience." Is not this wild rose sweet without a comment? Does not this daisy leap to my heart, set in its coat of emerald? Yet if I were to explain to you the circumstance that has so [70 endeared it to me, you would only smile. Had I not better then keep it to myself, and let it serve me to brood over, from here to yonder craggy point, and from thence onward to the far-distant horizon? I should be but bad company all that way, and therefore prefer being alone. I have heard it said that you may, when the moody fit comes on, walk or ride on by yourself, and indulge your reveries. [80 But this looks like a breach of manners, a neglect of others, and you are thinking all the time that you ought to rejoin your party. "Out upon such half-faced fellowship," say I. I like to be either entirely to myself, or entirely at the disposal of others; to talk or be silent, to walk or sit still, to be sociable or solitary. I was pleased with an observation of Mr. Cobbett's, that "he thought it [90 a bad French custom to drink our wine with our meals, and that an Englishman ought to do only one thing at a time." So I cannot talk and think, or indulge in melancholy musing and lively conversation by fits and starts. "Let me have a companion of my way," says Sterne, "were it but to remark how the shadows lengthen as the sun declines." It is beautifully said; but, in my opinion, this [100 continual comparing of notes interferes with the involuntary impression of things upon the mind, and hurts the sentiment. If you only hint what you feel in a kind of dumb show, it is insipid: if you have to explain it, it is making a toil of a

pleasure. You cannot read the book of nature without being perpetually put to the trouble of translating it for the benefit of others. I am for the synthetical [110 method on a journey in preference to the analytical. I am content to lay in a stock of ideas then, and to examine and anatomise them afterwards. I want to see my vague notions float like the down of the thistle before the breeze, and not to have them entangled in the briars and thorns of controversy. For once, I like to have it all my own way; and this is impossible unless you are alone, or [120 in such company as I do not covet. I have no objection to argue a point with any one for twenty miles of measured road, but not for pleasure. If you remark the scent of a bean-field crossing the road, perhaps your fellow-traveller has no smell. If you point to a distant object, perhaps he is short-sighted, and has to take out his glass to look at it. There is a feeling in the air, a tone in [130 the color of a cloud, which hits your fancy, but the effect of which you are unable to account for. There is then no sympathy, but an uneasy craving after it, and a dissatisfaction which pursues you on the way, and in the end probably produces ill-humor. Now I never quarrel with myself, and take all my own conclusions for granted till I find it necessary to defend them against objections. It is [140 not merely that you may not be of accord on the objects and circumstances that present themselves before you—these may recall a number of objects, and lead to associations too delicate and refined to be possibly communicated to others. Yet these I love to cherish, and sometimes still fondly clutch them, when I can escape from the throng to do so. To give way to our feelings before com- [150 pany seems extravagance or affectation; and, on the other hand, to have to unravel this mystery of our being at every turn, and to make others take an equal interest in it (otherwise the end is not answered), is a task to which few are competent. We must "give it an understanding, but no tongue." My old friend C—, however, could do both. He could go on in the most delightful explan- [160

atory way over hill and dale, a summer's day, and convert a landscape into a didactic poem or a Pindaric ode. "He talked far above singing." If I could so clothe my ideas in sounding and flowing words, I might perhaps wish to have some one with me to admire the swelling theme; or I could be more content, were it possible for me still to hear his echoing voice in the woods of All-Foxden. They [170 had "that fine madness in them which our first poets had"; and if they could have been caught by some rare instrument, would have breathed such strains as the following:

"Here be woods as green
As any, air likewise as fresh and sweet
As when smooth Zephyrus plays on the
 fleet
Face of the curled stream, with flow'rs as
 many
As the young spring gives, and as choice
 as any;
Here be all new delights, cool streams and
 wells, [180
Arbors o'ergrown with woodbines, caves
 and dells;
Choose where thou wilt, whilst I sit by
 and sing,
Or gather rushes to make many a ring
For thy long fingers; tell thee tales of love,
How the pale Phœbe, hunting in a grove,
First saw the boy Endymion, from whose
 eyes
She took eternal fire that never dies;
How she conveyed him softly in a sleep,
His temples bound with poppy, to the
 steep
Head of old Latmos, where she stoops
 each night, [190
Gilding the mountain with her brother's
 light,
To kiss her sweetest."

Had I words and images at command like these, I would attempt to wake the thoughts that lie slumbering on golden ridges in the evening clouds; but at the sight of nature my fancy, poor as it is, droops and closes up its leaves, like flowers at sunset. I can make nothing out on the spot: I must have time to [200 collect myself.

In general, a good thing spoils out-of-

door prospects: it should be reserved for Table-talk. L—— is for this reason, I take it, the worst company in the world out of doors; because he is the best within. I grant there is one subject on which it is pleasant to talk on a journey, and that is, what one shall have for supper when we get to our inn at night. [210 The open air improves this sort of conversation or friendly altercation, by setting a keener edge on appetite. Every mile of the road heightens the flavor of the viands we expect at the end of it. How fine it is to enter some old town, walled and turreted, just at approach of nightfall, or to come to some straggling village, with the lights streaming through the surrounding gloom; and then, after [220 inquiring for the best entertainment that the place affords, to "take one's ease at one's inn!" These eventful moments in our lives' history are too precious, too full of solid, heartfelt happiness to be frittered and dribbled away in imperfect sympathy. I would have them all to myself, and drain them to the last drop: they will do to talk of or to write about afterwards. What a delicate specula- [230 tion it is, after drinking whole goblets of tea—

"The cups that cheer, but not inebriate"—and letting the fumes ascend into the brain, to sit considering what we shall have for supper—eggs and a rasher, a rabbit smothered in onions, or an excellent veal cutlet! Sancho in such a situation once fixed on cow-heel; and his choice, though he could not help it, is not to [240 be disparaged. Then, in the intervals of pictured scenery and Shandean contemplation, to catch the preparation and the stir in the kitchen. *Procul, O procul este profani!* These hours are sacred to silence and to musing, to be treasured up in the memory, and to feed the source of smiling thoughts hereafter. I would not waste them in idle talk; or if I must have the integrity of fancy broken [250 in upon, I would rather it were by a stranger than a friend. A stranger takes his hue and character from the time and place; he is a part of the furniture and costume of an inn. If he is a Quaker, or

from the West Riding of Yorkshire, so much the better. I do not even try to sympathise with him, and he breaks no squares. I associate nothing with my travelling companion but present [260] objects and passing events. In his ignorance of me and my affairs, I in a manner forget myself. But a friend reminds one of other things, rips up old grievances, and destroys the abstraction of the scene. He comes in ungraciously between us and our imaginary character. Something is dropped in the course of conversation that gives a hint of your profession and pursuits; or from having some one [270] with you that knows the less sublime portions of your history, it seems that other people do. You are no longer a citizen of the world; but your "unhoused free condition is put into circumspection and confine." The incognito of an inn is one of its striking privileges—"lord of one's self, uncumbered with a name." Oh! it is great to shake off the trammels of the world and of public opinion—to lose [280] our importunate, tormenting, everlasting personal identity in the elements of nature, and become the creature of the moment, clear of all ties—to hold to the universe only by a dish of sweetbreads, and to owe nothing but the score of the evening—and no longer seeking for applause and meeting with contempt, to be known by no other title than *the Gentleman in the parlor!* One may take [290] one's choice of all characters in this romantic state of uncertainty as to one's real pretensions, and become indefinitely respectable and negatively right worshipful. We baffle prejudice and disappoint conjecture; and from being so to others, begin to be objects of curiosity and wonder even to ourselves. We are no more those hackneyed common-places that we appear in the world; an inn [300] restores us to the level of nature, and quits scores with society! I have certainly spent some enviable hours at inns—sometimes when I have been left entirely to myself, and have tried to solve some metaphysical problem, as once at Witham Common, where I found out the proof that likeness is not a case of the association of ideas—at other times, when there

have been pictures in the room, as at [310] St. Neot's (I think it was,) where I first met with Gribelin's engravings of the Cartoons, into which I entered at once, and at a little inn on the borders of Wales, where there happened to be hanging some of Westall's drawings, which I compared triumphantly (for a theory that I had, not for the admired artist) with the figure of a girl who had ferried me over the Severn, standing up in a boat between me and the twilight—at other times I might mention luxuriating in books, with a peculiar interest in this way, as I remember sitting up half the night to read *Paul and Virginia*, which I picked up at an inn at Bridgewater, after being drenched in the rain all day; and at the same place I got through two volumes of Madame d'Arblay's *Camilla*. It was on the 10th of April, 1798, that [330] I sat down to a volume of the *New Eloise*, at the inn at Llangollen, over a bottle of sherry and a cold chicken. The letter I chose was that in which St. Preux describes his feelings as he first caught a glimpse from the heights of the Jura of the Pays de Vaud, which I had brought with me as a *bon bouche* to crown the evening with. It was my birthday, and I had for the first time come from a [340] place in the neighborhood to visit this delightful spot. The road to Llangollen turns off between Chirk and Wrexham; and on passing a certain point you come all at once upon the valley, which opens like an amphitheatre, broad, barren hills rising in majestic state on either side, with "green upland swells that echo to the bleat of flocks" below, and the river Dee babbling over its stony bed in [350] the midst of them. The valley at this time "glittered green with sunny showers," and a budding ash-tree dipped its tender branches in the chiding stream. How proud, how glad I was to walk along the high road that overlooks the delicious prospect, repeating the lines which I have just quoted from Mr. Coleridge's poems! But besides the prospect which opened beneath my feet, another [360] also opened to my inward sight, a heavenly vision, on which were written, in letters large as Hope could make them,

these four words, LIBERTY, GENIUS, LOVE, VIRTUE; which have since faded into the light of common day, or mock my idle gaze.

"The beautiful is vanished, and returns not."

Still I would return some time or other to this enchanted spot; but I would [370] return to it alone. What other self could I find to share that influx of thoughts, of regret, and delight, the fragments of which I could hardly conjure up to myself, so much have they been broken and defaced. I could stand on some tall rock, and overlook the precipice of years that separates me from what I then was. I was at that time going shortly to visit the poet whom I have above named. [380] Where is he now? Not only I myself have changed; the world, which was then new to me, has become old and incorrigible. Yet will I turn to thee in thought, O sylvan Dee, in joy, in youth and gladness as thou then wert; and thou shalt always be to me the river of Paradise, where I will drink of the waters of life freely!

There is hardly anything that shows [390] the shortsightedness or capriciousness of the imagination more than travelling does. With change of place we change our ideas; nay, our opinions and feelings. We can by an effort indeed transport ourselves to old and long-forgotten scenes, and then the picture of the mind revives again; but we forget those that we have just left. It seems that we can think but of one place at a time. The canvas [400] of the fancy is but of a certain extent, and if we paint one set of objects upon it, they immediately efface every other. We cannot enlarge our conceptions, we only shift our point of view. The landscape bares its bosom to the enraptured eye, we take our fill of it, and seem as if we could form no other image of beauty or grandeur. We pass on, and think no more of it: the horizon that shuts it [410] from our sight also blots it from our memory like a dream. In travelling through a wild barren country I can form no idea of a woody and cultivated one. It appears to me that all the world must

be barren, like what I see of it. In the country we forget the town, and in town we despise the country. "Beyond Hyde Park," says Sir Fopling Flutter, "all is a desert." All that part of the map [420] that we do not see before us is blank. The world in our conceit of it is not much bigger than a nutshell. It is not one prospect expanded into another, county joined to county, kingdom to kingdom, land to seas, making an image voluminous and vast;—the mind can form no larger idea of space than the eye can take in at a single glance. The rest is a name written in a map, a calculation of [430] arithmetic. For instance, what is the true signification of that immense mass of territory and population known by the name of China to us? An inch of pasteboard on a wooden globe, of no more account than a China orange! Things near us are seen of the size of life: things at a distance are diminished to the size of the understanding. We measure the universe by ourselves, and even com- [440]prehend the texture of our own being only piecemeal. In this way, however, we remember an infinity of things and places. The mind is like a mechanical instrument that plays a great variety of tunes, but it must play them in succession. One idea recalls another, but it at the same time excludes all others. In trying to renew old recollections, we cannot as it were unfold the whole web of our existence; [450] we must pick out the single threads. So in coming to a place where we have formerly lived, and with which we have intimate associations, every one must have found that the feeling grows more vivid the nearer we approach the spot, from the mere anticipation of the actual impression: we remember circumstances, feelings, persons, faces, names that we had not thought of for years; but for [460] the time all the rest of the world is forgotten!—To return to the question I have quitted above:—

I have no objection to go to see ruins, aqueducts, pictures, in company with a friend or a party, but rather the contrary, for the former reason reversed. They are intelligible matters, and will bear talking about. The sentiment here is

not tacit, but communicable and [470 overt. Salisbury Plain is barren of criticism, but Stonehenge will bear a discussion antiquarian, picturesque, and philosophical. In setting out on a party of pleasure, the first consideration always is where we shall go to: in taking a solitary ramble, the question is what we shall meet with by the way. "The mind is its own place"; nor are we anxious to arrive at the end of our journey. I can my- [480 self do the honors indifferently well to works of art and curiosity. I once took a party to Oxford with no mean *éclat*—showed them that seat of the Muses at a distance,

"With glistering spires and pinnacles adorned,"

descanted on the learned air that breathes from the grassy quadrangles and stone walls of halls and colleges—was at home in the Bodleian; and at Blenheim [490 quite superseded the powdered Cicerone that attended us, and that pointed in vain with his wand to commonplace beauties in matchless pictures. As another exception to the above reasoning, I should not feel confident in venturing on a journey in a foreign country without a companion. I should want at intervals to hear the sound of my own language. There is an involuntary antipathy in [500 the mind of an Englishman to foreign manners and notions that requires the assistance of social sympathy to carry it off. As the distance from home increases, this relief, which was at first a luxury, becomes a passion and an appetite. A person would almost feel stifled to find himself in the deserts of Arabia without friends and countrymen: there must be allowed to be something in the view [510 of Athens or old Rome that claims the utterance of speech; and I own that the Pyramids are too mighty for any single contemplation. In such situations, so opposite to all one's ordinary train of ideas, one seems a species by one's-self, a limb torn off from society, unless one can meet with instant fellowship and support. Yet I did not feel this want or craving very pressing once, when I [520 first set my foot on the laughing shores

of France. Calais was peopled with novelty and delight. The confused, busy murmur of the place was like oil and wine poured into my ears; nor did the mariners' hymn, which was sung from the top of an old crazy vessel in the harbor, as the sun went down, send an alien sound into my soul. I only breathed the air of general humanity. I walked over [530 "the vine-covered hills and gay regions of France," erect and satisfied; for the image of man was not cast down and chained to the foot of arbitrary thrones. I was at no loss for language, for that of all the great schools of painting was open to me. The whole is vanished like a shade. Pictures, heroes, glory, freedom, all are fled: nothing remains but the Bourbons and the French people!— [540 There is undoubtedly a sensation in travelling into foreign parts that is to be had nowhere else; but it is more pleasing at the time than lasting. It is too remote from our habitual associations to be a common topic of discourse or reference, and, like a dream or another state of existence, does not piece into our daily modes of life. It is an animated but a momentary hallucination. It demands an effort to [550 exchange our actual for our ideal identity; and to feel the pulse of our old transports revive very keenly, we must "jump" all our present comforts and connections. Our romantic and itinerant character is not to be domesticated. Dr. Johnson remarked how little foreign travel added to the facilities of conversation in those who had been abroad. In fact, the time we have spent there is both delightful, [560 and in one sense instructive; but it appears to be cut out of our substantial, downright existence, and never to join kindly on to it. We are not the same, but another, and perhaps more enviable individual, all the time we are out of our own country. We are lost to ourselves, as well as our friends. So the poet somewhat quaintly sings:

"Out of my country and myself I go." [570

Those who wish to forget painful thoughts, do well to absent themselves for a while from the ties and objects that recall them; but we can be said only to fulfil our des-

tiny in the place that gave us birth. I should on this account like well enough to spend the whole of my life in travelling abroad, if I could anywhere borrow another life to spend afterwards at home!

ON FAMILIAR STYLE

It is not easy to write a familiar style. Many people mistake a familiar for a vulgar style, and suppose that to write without affectation is to write at random. On the contrary, there is nothing that requires more precision, and, if I may so say, purity of expression, than the style I am speaking of. It utterly rejects not only all unmeaning pomp, but all low, cant [10] phrases, and loose, unconnected, *slipshod* allusions. It is not to take the first word that offers, but the best word in common use; it is not to throw words together in any combinations we please, but to follow and avail ourselves of the true idiom of the language. To write a genuine familiar or truly English style is to write as any one would speak in common conversation [20] who had a thorough command and choice of words, or who could discourse with ease, force, and perspicuity, setting aside all pedantic and oratorical flourishes. Or, to give another illustration, to write naturally is the same thing in regard to common conversation as to read naturally is in regard to common speech. It does not follow that it is an easy thing to give the true accent and inflection to the [30] words you utter, because you do not attempt to rise above the level of ordinary life and colloquial speaking. You do not assume, indeed, the solemnity of the pulpit, or the tone of stage-declamation; neither are you at liberty to gabble on at a venture, without emphasis or discretion, or to resort to vulgar dialect or clownish pronunciation. You must steer a middle course. You are tied down [40] to a given and appropriate articulation, which is determined by the habitual associations between sense and sound, and which you can only hit by entering into

the author's meaning, as you must find the proper words and style to express yourself by fixing your thoughts on the subject you have to write about. Any one may mouth out a passage with a theatrical cadence, or get upon stilts [50] to tell his thoughts; but to write or speak with propriety and simplicity is a more difficult task. Thus it is easy to affect a pompous style, to use a word twice as big as the thing you want to express: it is not so easy to pitch upon the very word that exactly fits it. Out of eight or ten words equally common, equally intelligible, with nearly equal pretensions, it is a matter of some nicety and dis- [60] crimination to pick out the very one the preferableness of which is scarcely perceptible, but decisive. The reason why I object to Dr. Johnson's style is that there is no discrimination, no selection, no variety in it. He uses none but "tall, opaque words," taken from the "first row of the rubric;"—words with the greatest number of syllables, or Latin phrases with merely English termina- [70] tions. If a fine style depended on this sort of arbitrary pretension, it would be fair to judge of an author's elegance by the measurement of his words, and the substitution of foreign circumlocutions (with no precise associations) for the mother-tongue.¹ How simple it is to be dignified without ease, to be pompous without meaning! Surely, it is but a mechanical rule for avoiding what [80] is low, to be always pedantic and affected. It is clear you cannot use a vulgar English word if you never use a common English word at all. A fine tact is shown in adhering to those which are perfectly common, and yet never falling into any expressions which are debased by disgusting circumstances, or which owe their signification and point to technical or professional [90] allusions. A truly natural or familiar style can never be quaint or vulgar, for this reason, that it is of universal force and applicability, and that quaintness

¹ I have heard of such a thing as an author who makes it a rule never to admit a monosyllable into his rapid verse. Yet the charm and sweetness of Marlowe's lines depended often on their being made up almost entirely of monosyllables. [Hazlitt.]

and vulgarity arise out of the immediate connection of certain words with coarse and disagreeable or with confined ideas. The last form what we understand by *cant* or *slang* phrases.—To give an example of what is not very clear in the [100] general statement. I should say that the phrase *To cut with a knife*, or *To cut a piece of wood*, is perfectly free from vulgarity, because it is perfectly common; but *To cut an acquaintance* is not quite unexceptionable, because it is not perfectly common or intelligible, and has hardly yet escaped out of the limits of slang phraseology. I should hardly, therefore, use the word in this [110] sense without putting it in italics as a license of expression, to be received *cum grano salis*. All provincial or bye-phrases come under the same mark of reprobation—all such as the writer transfers to the page from his fireside or a particular *coterie*, or that he invents for his own sole use and convenience. I conceive that words are like money, not the worse for being common, but that it is the stamp [120] of custom alone that gives them circulation or value. I am fastidious in this respect, and would almost as soon coin the currency of the realm as counterfeit the King's English. I never invented or gave a new and unauthorised meaning to any word but one single one (the term *impersonal* applied to feelings), and that was in an abstruse metaphysical discussion to express a very difficult dis- [130] tinction. I have been (I know) loudly accused of revelling in vulgarisms and broken English. I cannot speak to that point; but so far I plead guilty to the determined use of acknowledged idioms and common elliptical expressions. I am not sure that the critics in question know the one from the other, that is, can distinguish any medium between formal pedantry and the most barbarous solecism. As an [140] author I endeavor to employ plain words and popular modes of construction, as, were I a chapman and dealer, I should common weights and measures.

The proper force of words lies not in the words themselves, but in their application. A word may be a fine-sounding word, of an unusual length, and very im-

posing from its learning and novelty, and yet in the connection in which it is [150] introduced may be quite pointless and irrelevant. It is not pomp or pretension, but the adaptation of the expression to the idea, that clenches a writer's meaning:—as it is not the size or glossiness of the materials, but their being fitted each to its place, that gives strength to the arch; or as the pegs and nails are as necessary to the support of the building as the larger timbers, and more so than [160] the mere showy, unsubstantial ornaments. I hate anything that occupies more space than it is worth. I hate to see a load of bandboxes go along the street, and I hate to see a parcel of big words without anything in them. A person who does not deliberately dispose of all his thoughts alike in cumbrous draperies and flimsy disguises may strike out twenty varieties of familiar everyday language, each [170] coming somewhat nearer to the feeling he wants to convey, and at last not hit upon that particular and only one which may be said to be identical with the exact impression in his mind. This would seem to show that Mr. Cobbett is hardly right in saying that the first word that occurs is always the best. It may be a very good one; and yet a better may present itself on reflection or from time to time. [180] It should be suggested naturally, however, and spontaneously, from a fresh and lively conception of the subject. We seldom succeed by trying at improvement, or by merely substituting one word for another that we are not satisfied with, as we cannot recollect the name of a place or person by merely plaguing ourselves about it. We wander farther from the point by persisting in a wrong scent; but it [190] starts up accidentally in the memory when we least expected it, by touching some link in the chain of previous association.

There are those who hoard up and make a cautious display of nothing but rich and rare phraseology;—ancient medals, obscure coins, and Spanish pieces of eight. They are very curious to inspect; but I myself would neither offer nor take [200] them in the course of exchange. A sprinkling of archaisms is not amiss; but

a tissue of obsolete expressions is more fit *for keep than wear*. I do not say I would not use any phrase that had been brought into fashion before the middle or the end of the last century; but I should be shy of using any that had not been employed by any approved author during the whole of that time. Words, like clothes, get [210] old-fashioned, or mean and ridiculous, when they have been for some time laid aside. Mr. Lamb is the only imitator of old English style I can read with pleasure; and he is so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of his authors that the idea of imitation is almost done away. There is an inward unction, a marrowy vein both in the thought and feeling, an intuition, deep and lively, of his subject, that carries [220] off any quaintness or awkwardness arising from an antiquated style and dress. The matter is completely his own, though the manner is assumed. Perhaps his ideas are altogether so marked and individual as to require their point and pungency to be neutralised by the affectation of a singular but traditional form of conveyance. Tricked out in the prevailing costume, they would probably seem more [230] startling and out of the way. The old English authors, Burton, Fuller, Coryate, Sir Thomas Browne, are a kind of mediators between us and the more eccentric and whimsical modern, reconciling us to his peculiarities. I do not, however, know how far this is the case or not, till he condescends to write like one of us. I must confess that what I like best of his papers under the signature of Elia (still I [240] do not presume, amidst such excellence, to decide what is most excellent) is the account of "Mrs. Battle's Opinions on Whist," which is also the most free from obsolete allusions and turns of expression—

"A well of native English undefiled."

To those acquainted with his admired prototypes, these *Essays* of the ingenious and highly gifted author have the same [250] sort of charm and relish that Erasmus's *Colloquies* or a fine piece of modern Latin have to the classical scholar. Certainly, I do not know any borrowed pencil that has more power or felicity of execution

than the one of which I have here been speaking.

It is as easy to write a gaudy style without ideas as it is to spread a pallet of showy colors or to smear in a flaunting transparency. "What do you read?" "Words, words, words."—"What is the matter?" "*Nothing*," it might be answered. The florid style is the reverse of the familiar. The last is employed as an unvarnished medium to convey ideas; the first is resorted to as a spangled veil to conceal the want of them. When there is nothing to be set down but words, it costs little to have them fine. Look [270] through the dictionary, and cull out a *florilegium*, rival the *tulippomania*. *Rouge* high enough, and never mind the natural complexion. The vulgar, who are not in the secret, will admire the look of preternatural health and vigor; and the fashionable, who regard only appearances, will be delighted with the imposition. Keep to your sounding generalities, your tinkling phrases, and all will be well. [280] Swell out an unmeaning truism to a perfect tympany of style. A thought, a distinction, is the rock on which all this brittle cargo of verbiage splits at once. Such writers have merely *verbal* imaginations, that retain nothing but words. Or their puny thoughts have dragon-wings all green and gold. They soar far above the vulgar failing of the *sermo humi obrepens*—their most ordinary speech [290] is never short of an hyperbole, splendid, imposing, vague, incomprehensible, magiloquent, a cento of sounding commonplaces. If some of us, whose "ambition is more lowly," pry a little too narrowly into nooks and corners to pick up a number of "unconsidered trifles," they never once direct their eyes or lift their hands to seize on any but the most gorgeous, tarnished, threadbare, patchwork set [300] of phrases, the left-off finery of poetic extravagance, transmitted down through successive generations of barren pretenders. If they criticise actors and actresses, a huddled phantasmagoria of feathers, spangles, floods of light, and oceans of sound float before their morbid sense, which they paint in the style of Ancient Pistol. Not a glimpse can you

get of the merits or defects of the per- [310
formers: they are hidden in a profusion
of barbarous epithets and wilful rhodo-
montade. Our hypercritics are not think-
ing of these little fantoccini beings—

“That strut and fret their hour upon
the stage”—

but of tall phantoms of words, abstrac-
tions, *genera* and *species*, sweeping clauses,
periods that unite the Poles, forced al-
literations, astounding antitheses— [319

“And on their pens *Fustian* sits plumed.”

If they describe kings and queens, it is
an Eastern pageant. The Coronation at
either House is nothing to it. We get at
four repeated images—a curtain, a throne,
a sceptre, and a foot-stool. These are
with them the wardrobe of a lofty imagina-
tion; and they turn their servile strains
to servile uses. Do we read a description
of pictures? It is not a reflection of tones
and hues which “nature’s own sweet [330
and cunning hand laid on,” but piles of
precious stones, rubies, pearls, emeralds,
Golconda’s mines, and all the blazonry
of art. Such persons are in fact besotted
with words, and their brains are turned
with the glittering but empty and sterile
phantoms of things. Personifications,
capital letters, seas of sunbeams, visions
of glory, shining inscriptions, the figures
of a transparency, Britannia with her [340
shield, or Hope leaning on an anchor,
make up their stock in trade. They may
be considered as *hieroglyphical* writers.
Images stand out in their minds isolated
and important merely in themselves,
without any groundwork of feeling—there
is no context in their imaginations. Words
affect them in the same way, by the mere
sound, that is, by their possible, not by
their actual application to the subject [350
in hand. They are fascinated by first
appearances, and have no sense of con-
sequences. Nothing more is meant by
them than meets the ear: they under-
stand or feel nothing more than meets
their eye. The web and texture of the
universe, and of the heart of man, is
a mystery to them: they have no faculty
that strikes a chord in unison with it.
They cannot get beyond the daubings [360

of fancy, the varnish of sentiment. Objects
are not linked to feelings, words to things,
but images revolve in splendid mockery,
words represent themselves in their
strange rhapsodies. The categories of
such a mind are pride and ignorance—
pride in outside show, to which they sacri-
fice everything, and ignorance of the true
worth and hidden structure both of words
and things. With a sovereign con- [370
tempt for what is familiar and natural,
they are the slaves of vulgar affectation—
of a routine of high-flown phrases. Scorn-
ing to imitate realities, they are unable
to invent anything, to strike out one
original idea. They are not copyists of
nature, it is true; but they are the poorest
of all plagiarists, the plagiarists of words.
All is far-fetched, dear-bought, artificial,
oriental in subject and allusion; [380
all is mechanical, conventional, vapid,
formal, pedantic in style and execution.
They startle and confound the under-
standing of the reader by the remoteness
and obscurity of their illustrations; they
soothe the ear by the monotony of the
same everlasting round of circuitous
metaphors. They are the *mock-school* in
poetry and prose. They flounder about be-
tween fustian in expression and bathos [390
in sentiment. They tantalise the fancy,
but never reach the head nor touch the
heart. Their Temple of Fame is like a
shadowy structure raised by Dulness to
Vanity, or like Cowper’s description of
the Empress of Russia’s palace of ice,
“as worthless as in show ’twas glitter-
ing”—

“It smiled, and it was cold!”

THOMAS DE QUINCEY (1785–1859)

From CONFESSIONS OF AN ENG-
LISH OPIUM-EATER

I have often been asked how I came to
be a regular opium eater; and have suf-
fered, very unjustly, in the opinion of
my acquaintance, from being reputed to
have brought upon myself all the suffer-
ings which I shall have to record, by a
long course of indulgence in this practice
purely for the sake of creating an artificial

state of pleasurable excitement. This, however, is a misrepresentation of [10 my case. True it is, that for nearly ten years I did occasionally take opium for the sake of the exquisite pleasure it gave me: but, so long as I took it with this view, I was effectually protected from all material bad consequences, by the necessity of interposing long intervals between the several acts of indulgence, in order to renew the pleasurable sensations. It was not for the purpose of [20 creating pleasure, but of mitigating pain in the severest degree, that I first began to use opium as an article of daily diet. In the twenty-eighth year of my age, a most painful affection of the stomach, which I had first experienced about ten years before, attacked me in great strength. This affection had originally been caused by extremities of hunger, suffered in my boyish days. During the season of [30 hope and redundant happiness which succeeded (that is, from eighteen to twenty-four) it had slumbered; for the three following years it had revived at intervals; and now, under unfavorable circumstances, from depression of spirits, it attacked me with a violence that yielded to no remedies but opium. As the youthful sufferings, which first produced this derangement of the stomach, were in- [40 teresting in themselves, and in the circumstances that attended them, I shall here briefly retrace them.

My father died when I was about seven years old, and left me to the care of four guardians. I was sent to various schools, great and small; and was very early distinguished for my classical attainments, especially for my knowledge of Greek. At thirteen I wrote Greek with ease; [50 and at fifteen my command of that language was so great, that I not only composed Greek verses in lyric meters, but could converse in Greek fluently and without embarrassment—an accomplishment which I have not since met with in any scholar of my times, and which, in my case, was owing to the practice of daily reading off the newspapers into the best Greek I could furnish *extempore*; [60 for the necessity of ransacking my memory and invention, for all sorts and combina-

tions of periphrastic expressions, as equivalents for modern ideas, images, relations of things, etc., gave me a compass of diction which would never have been called out by a dull translation of moral essays, etc. "That boy," said one of my masters, pointing the attention of a stranger to me, "that boy could harangue [70 an Athenian mob, better than you and I could address an English one." He who honored me with this eulogy was a scholar, "and a ripe and good one;" and of all my tutors, was the only one whom I loved or revered. Unfortunately for me (and, as I afterwards learned, to this worthy man's great indignation) I was transferred to the care, first of a block-head, who was in a perpetual panic [80 lest I should expose his ignorance; and finally, to that of a respectable scholar, at the head of a great school on an ancient foundation. This man had been appointed to his situation by — College, Oxford; and was a sound, well-built scholar, but like most men whom I have known from that college, coarse, clumsy, and inelegant. A miserable contrast he presented, in my eyes, to the Etonian bril- [90 liancy of my favorite master; and besides, he could not disguise from my hourly notice, the poverty and meagerness of his understanding. It is a bad thing for a boy to be, and to know himself, far beyond his tutors, whether in knowledge or in power of mind. This was the case, so far as regarded knowledge at least, not with myself only; for the two boys who jointly with myself composed [100 the first form were better Grecians than the head-master, though not more elegant scholars, nor at all more accustomed to sacrifice to the graces. When I first entered, I remember that we read Sophocles; and it was a constant matter of triumph to us, the learned triumvirate of the first form, to see our "Archididas-calus," as he loved to be called, conning our lessons before we went up, and [110 laying a regular train, with lexicon and grammar, for blowing up and blasting, as it were, any difficulties he found in the choruses; whilst *we* never condescended to open our books until the moment of going up, and were generally employed

in writing epigrams upon his wig, or some such important matter. My two class-fellows were poor, and dependent for their future prospects at the univer- [120] sity on the recommendation of the head-master; but I, who had a small patrimonial property, the income of which was sufficient to support me at college, wished to be sent thither immediately. I made earnest representations on the subject to my guardians, but all to no purpose. One, who was more reasonable, and had more knowledge of the world than the rest, lived at a distance; two [130] of the other three resigned all their authority into the hands of the fourth; and this fourth with whom I had to negotiate, was a worthy man, in his way, but haughty, obstinate, and intolerant of all opposition to his will. After a certain number of letters and personal interviews, I found that I had nothing to hope for, not even a compromise of the matter, from my guardian; uncondi- [140] tional submission was what he demanded; and I prepared myself, therefore, for other measures. Summer was now coming on with hasty steps, and my seventeenth birthday was fast approaching; after which day I had sworn within myself that I would no longer be numbered amongst school-boys. Money being what I chiefly wanted, I wrote to a woman of high rank, who, though young herself, had known [150] me from a child, and had latterly treated me with great distinction, requesting that she would "lend" me five guineas. For upwards of a week no answer came; and I was beginning to despond, when, at length, a servant put into my hands a double letter, with a coronet on the seal. The letter was kind and obliging: the fair writer was on the sea-coast, and in that way the delay had arisen; [160] she enclosed double of what I had asked, and good-naturedly hinted that if I should *never* repay her, it would not absolutely ruin her. Now then, I was prepared for my scheme; ten guineas, added to about two which I had remaining from my pocket money, seemed to me sufficient for an indefinite length of time; and at that happy age, if no *definite* boundary can be assigned to [170]

one's power, the spirit of hope and pleasure makes it virtually infinite.

It is a just remark of Dr. Johnson's, and, what cannot often be said of his remarks, it is a very feeling one, that we never do anything consciously for the last time—of things, that is, which we have long been in the habit of doing—without sadness of heart. This truth I felt deeply, when I came to leave —, [180] a place which I did not love, and where I had not been happy. On the evening before I left — forever, I grieved when the ancient and lofty school-room resounded with the evening service, performed for the last time in my hearing, and at night, when the muster-roll of names was called over, and mine, as usual, was called first, I stepped forward, and, passing the head-master, who [190] was standing by, I bowed to him, and looked earnestly in his face, thinking to myself, "He is old and infirm, and in this world I shall not see him again." I was right: I never *did* see him again, nor ever shall. He looked at me complacently, smiled good-naturedly, returned my salutation, or rather, my valediction, and we parted, though he knew it not, forever. I could not reverence him [200] intellectually; but he had been uniformly kind to me, and had allowed me many indulgences; and I grieved at the thought of the mortification I should inflict upon him.

The morning came which was to launch me into the world, and from which my whole succeeding life has, in many important points, taken its coloring. I lodged in the head-master's house, and [210] had been allowed, from my first entrance, the indulgence of a private room, which I used both as a sleeping room and a study. At half after three I rose, and gazed with deep emotion at the ancient towers of —, "dressed in earliest light," and beginning to crimson with the radiant luster of a cloudless July morning. I was firm and immovable in my purpose; but yet agitated by anticipation of [220] uncertain danger and troubles; and, if I could have foreseen the hurricane and perfect hail-storm of affliction which soon fell upon me, well might I have

been agitated. To this agitation the deep peace of the morning presented an affecting contrast, and in some degree a medicine. The silence was more profound than that of midnight; and to me the silence of a summer morning is [230 more touching than all other silence, because, the light being broad and strong, as that of noon-day at other seasons of the year, it seems to differ from perfect day chiefly because man is not yet abroad; and thus, the peace of nature, and of the innocent creatures of God, seems to be secure and deep only so long as the presence of man, and his restless and unquiet spirit, are not there to trouble [240 its sanctity. I dressed myself, took my hat and gloves, and lingered a little in the room. For the last year and a half this room had been my "pensive citadel;" here I had read and studied through all the hours of night; and though true it was that for the latter part of this time I, who was framed for love and gentle affections, had lost my gaiety and happiness, during the strife and fever of [250 contention with my guardian; yet, on the other hand, as a boy so passionately fond of books, and dedicated to intellectual pursuits, I could not fail to have enjoyed many happy hours in the midst of general dejection. I wept as I looked round on the chair, hearth, writing-table, and other familiar objects, knowing too certainly that I looked upon them for the last time. Whilst I write this, it [260 is eighteen years ago; and yet, at this moment, I see distinctly, as if it were yesterday, the lineaments and expression of the object on which I fixed my parting gaze; it was a picture of the lovely —, which hung over the mantelpiece; the eyes and mouth of which were so beautiful, and the whole countenance so radiant with benignity and divine tranquillity, that I had a thousand times laid down [270 my pen, or my book, to gather consolation from it, as a devotee from his patron saint. Whilst I was yet gazing upon it, the deep tones of — clock proclaimed that it was four o'clock. I went up to the picture, kissed it, and then gently walked out, and closed the door for ever!

* * * * *

If any man, poor or rich, were to say that he would tell us what had been the happiest day in his life, and the why [280 and the wherefore, I suppose that we should all cry out—Hear him! hear him! As to the happiest *day*, that must be very difficult for any wise man to name; because any event that could occupy so distinguished a place in a man's retrospect of his life, or be entitled to have shed a special felicity on any one day, ought to be of such an enduring character as that, accidents apart, it should [290 have continued to shed the same felicity, or one not distinguishably less, on many years together. To the happiest *lustrum*, however, or even to the happiest *year*, it may be allowed to any man to point without discountenance from wisdom. This year, in my case, reader, was the one which we have now reached; though it stood, I confess, as a parenthesis between years of a gloomier character. [300 It was a year of brilliant water, to speak after the manner of jewelers, set as it were, and insulated, in the gloom and cloudy melancholy of opium. Strange as it may sound, I had a little before this time descended suddenly, and without any considerable effort, from 320 grains of opium (*i. e.*, eight ¹ thousand drops of laudanum) per day to forty grains, or one-eighth part. Instantaneously, [310 and as if by magic, the cloud of profoundest melancholy which rested upon my brain, like some black vapors that I have seen roll away from the summits of mountains, drew off in one day (*νυχθήμερον*), passed off with its murky banners as simultaneously as a ship that has been stranded, and is floated off by a spring tide—

"That moveth altogether, if it move at all." [320

Now, then, I was again happy; I now took only 1,000 drops of laudanum per

¹ I here reckon twenty-five drops of laudanum as equivalent to one grain of opium, which, I believe, is the common estimate. However, as both may be considered variable quantities (the crude opium varying much in strength, and the tincture still more), I suppose that no infinitesimal accuracy can be had in such a calculation. Teaspoons vary as much in size as opium in strength. Small ones hold about 100 drops; so that 8,000 drops are about eighty times a teaspoonful. The reader sees how much I kept within Dr. Buchan's indulgent allowance. [De Quincey.]

day; and what was that? A latter spring had come to close up the season of youth; my brain performed its functions as healthily as ever before; I read Kant again, and again I understood him, or fancied that I did. Again my feelings of pleasure expanded themselves to all around me; and if any man from Ox- [330] ford or Cambridge, or from neither, had been announced to me in my unpretending cottage, I should have welcomed him with as sumptuous a reception as so poor a man could offer. Whatever else was wanting to a wise man's happiness,—of laudanum I would have given him as much as he wished, and in a golden cup. And, by the way, now that I speak of giving laudanum away, I remember, [340] about this time, a little incident, which I mention, because, trifling as it was, the reader will soon meet it again in my dreams, which it influenced more fearfully than could be imagined. One day a Malay knocked at my door. What business a Malay could have to transact amongst English mountains, I cannot conjecture; but possibly he was on his road to a seaport about forty miles [350] distant.

The servant who opened the door to him was a young girl born and bred amongst the mountains, who had never seen an Asiatic dress of any sort; his turban, therefore, confounded her not a little; and, as it turned out, that his attainments in English were exactly of the same extent as hers in the Malay, there seemed to be an impassable gulf fixed [360] between all communication of ideas, if either party had happened to possess any. In this dilemma, the girl, recollecting the reputed learning of her master, and doubtless giving me credit for a knowledge of all the languages of the earth, besides, perhaps, a few of the lunar ones, came and gave me to understand that there was a sort of demon below, whom she clearly imagined that my [370] art could exorcise from the house. I did not immediately go down; but, when I did, the group which presented itself, arranged as it was by accident, though not very elaborate, took hold of my fancy and my eye in a way that none of the

statuesque attitudes exhibited in the ballets at the Opera House, though so ostentatiously complex, had ever done. In a cottage kitchen, but panelled [380] on the wall with dark wood that from age and rubbing resembled oak, and looking more like a rustic hall of entrance than a kitchen, stood the Malay—his turban and loose trousers of dingy white relieved upon the dark panelling; he had placed himself nearer to the girl than she seemed to relish; though her native spirit of mountain intrepidity contended with the feeling of simple awe which her [390] countenance expressed as she gazed upon the tiger-cat before her. And a more striking picture there could not be imagined, than the beautiful English face of the girl, and its exquisite fairness, together with her erect and independent attitude, contrasted with the sallow and bilious skin of the Malay, enamelled or veneered with mahogany by marine air, his small, fierce, restless eyes, thin lips, slavish [400] gestures, and adorations. Half-hidden by the ferocious-looking Malay, was a little child from a neighboring cottage who had crept in after him, and was now in the act of reverting its head, and gazing upwards at the turban, and the fiery eyes beneath it, whilst with one hand he caught at the dress of the young woman for protection. My knowledge of the Oriental tongues is not remarkably [410] extensive, being indeed confined to two words—the Arabic word for barley, and the Turkish for opium (madjoon), which I have learned from Anastasius. And, as I had neither a Malay dictionary, nor even Adelung's *Mithridates*, which might have helped me to a few words, I addressed him in some lines from the *Iliad*; considering that, of such languages as I possessed, Greek, in point of longitude, [420] came geographically nearest to an Oriental one. He worshipped me in a most devout manner, and replied in what I suppose was Malay. In this way I saved my reputation with my neighbors; for the Malay had no means of betraying the secret. He lay down upon the floor for about an hour, and then pursued his journey. On his departure I presented him with a piece of opium. To him, [430]

as an Orientalist, I concluded that opium must be familiar; and the expression of his face convinced me that it was. Nevertheless, I was struck with some little consternation when I saw him suddenly raise his hand to his mouth, and, in the school-boy phrase, bolt the whole, divided into three pieces, at one mouthful. The quantity was enough to kill three dragoons and their horses; and I felt [440 some alarm for the poor creature; but what could be done? I had given him the opium in compassion for his solitary life, on recollecting that if he had travelled on foot from London, it must be nearly three weeks since he could have exchanged a thought with any human being. I could not think of violating the laws of hospitality, by having him seized and drenched with an emetic, and [450 thus frightening him into a notion that we were going to sacrifice him to some English idol. No: there was clearly no help for it;—he took his leave, and for some days I felt anxious; but as I never heard of any Malay being found dead, I became convinced that he was used to opium; and that I must have done him the service I designed, by giving him one night of respite from the pains of [460 wandering.

* * * * *

I now pass to what is the main subject of these latter Confessions, to the history and journal of what took place in my dreams; for these were the immediate and proximate cause of my acutest suffering.

The first notice I had of any important change going on in this part of my physical economy, was from the re-awakening [470 of a state of eye generally incident to childhood, or exalted states of irritability. I know not whether my reader is aware that many children, perhaps most, have a power of painting, as it were, upon the darkness, all sorts of phantoms; in some, that power is simply a mechanic affection of the eye; others have a voluntary, or semi-voluntary power to dismiss or to summon them; or, as a child once [480 said to me when I questioned him on this matter, "I can tell them to go, and they

go; but sometimes they come, when I don't tell them to come." Whereupon I told him that he had almost as unlimited a command over apparitions as a Roman centurion over his soldiers. In the middle of 1817, I think it was, that this faculty became positively distressing to me: at night, when I lay awake in bed, [490 vast processions passed along in mournful pomp; friezes of never-ending stories, that to my feelings were as sad and solemn as if they were stories drawn from times before *Œdipus* or *Priam*—before *Tyre*—before *Memphis*. And, at the same time, a corresponding change took place in my dreams; a theatre seemed suddenly opened and lighted up within my brain, which presented nightly [500 spectacles of more than earthly splendor. And the four following facts may be mentioned, as noticeable at this time:

1. That as the creative state of the eye increased, a sympathy seemed to arise between the waking and the dreaming states of the brain in one point—that whatsoever I happened to call up and to trace by a voluntary act upon the darkness was very apt to transfer itself to [510 my dreams; so that I feared to exercise this faculty; for, as *Midas* turned all things to gold, that yet baffled his hopes and defrauded his human desires, so whatsoever things capable of being visually represented I did but think of in the darkness, immediately shaped themselves into phantoms of the eye; and, by a process apparently no less inevitable, when thus once traced in faint and visionary [520 colors, like writings in sympathetic ink, they were drawn out by the fierce chemistry of my dreams, into insufferable splendor that fretted my heart.

2. For this, and all other changes in my dreams, were accompanied by deep-seated anxiety and gloomy melancholy, such as are wholly incommunicable by words. I seemed every night to descend, not metaphorically, but literally to [530 descend, into chasms and sunless abysses, depths below depths, from which it seemed hopeless that I could ever re-ascend. Nor did I, by waking, feel that I *had* re-ascended. This I do not dwell upon; because the state of gloom which at-

tended these gorgeous spectacles, amounting at last to utter darkness, as of some suicidal despondency, cannot be approached by words. [540

3. The sense of space, and, in the end, the sense of time, were both powerfully affected. Buildings, landscapes, etc., were exhibited in proportions so vast as the bodily eye is not fitted to receive. Space swelled, and was amplified to an extent of unutterable infinity. This, however, did not disturb me so much as the vast expansion of time; I sometimes seemed to have lived for seventy or a hundred [550 years in one night; nay, sometimes had feelings representative of a millennium passed in that time, or, however, of a duration far beyond the limits of any human experience.

4. The minutest incidents of childhood, or forgotten scenes of later years, were often revived; I could not be said to recollect them; for if I had been told of them when waking, I should not have [560 been able to acknowledge them as parts of my past experience. But placed as they were before me, in dreams like intuitions, and clothed in all their evanescent circumstances and accompanying feelings, I *recognised* them instantaneously. I was once told by a near relative of mine, that having in her childhood fallen into a river, and being on the very verge of death but for the critical as- [570 sistance which reached her, she saw in a moment her whole life, in its minutest incidents, arrayed before her simultaneously as in a mirror; and she had a faculty developed as suddenly for comprehending the whole and every part. This, from some opium experiences of mine, I can believe; I have, indeed, seen the same thing asserted twice in modern books, and accompanied by a remark [580 which I am convinced is true—viz., that the dread book of account, which the Scriptures speak of, is, in fact, the mind itself of each individual. Of this, at least, I feel assured, that there is no such thing as *forgetting* possible to the mind; a thousand accidents may and will interpose a veil between our present consciousness and the secret inscriptions on the mind; accidents of the same sort [590

will also rend away this veil; but alike, whether veiled or unveiled, the inscription remains for ever; just as the stars seem to withdraw before the common light of day, whereas, in fact, we all know that it is the light which is drawn over them as a veil, and that they are waiting to be revealed when the obscuring daylight shall have withdrawn.

Having noticed these four facts as [600 memorably distinguishing my dreams from those of health, I shall now cite a case illustrative of the first fact; and shall then cite any others that I remember, either in their chronological order, or any other that may give them more effect as pictures to the reader.

I had been in youth, and even since, for occasional amusement, a great reader of Livy, whom, I confess, that I pre- [610 fer, both for style and matter, to any other of the Roman historians; and I had often felt as most solemn and appalling sounds, and most emphatically representative of the majesty of the Roman people, the two words so often occurring in Livy—*Consul Romanus*; especially when the consul is introduced in his military character. I mean to say that the words king—sultan—regent, etc., or [620 any other titles of those who embody in their own persons the collective majesty of a great people, had less power over my reverential feelings. I had also, though no great reader of history, made myself minutely and critically familiar with one period of English history—viz., the period of the Parliamentary War—having been attracted by the moral grandeur of some who figured in that day, and [630 by the many interesting memoirs which survive those unquiet times. Both these parts of my lighter reading, having furnished me often with matter of reflection, now furnished me with matter for my dreams. Often I used to see, after painting upon the blank darkness a sort of rehearsal whilst waking, a crowd of ladies, and perhaps a festival, and dances. And I heard it said, or I said to myself, [640 “These are English ladies from the unhappy times of Charles I. These are the wives and the daughters of those who met in peace, and sat at the same tables,

and were allied by marriage or by blood; and yet, after a certain day in August, 1642, never smiled upon each other again, nor met but in the field of battle; and at Marston Moor, at Newbury, or at Naseby, cut asunder all ties of love [650 by the cruel sabre, and washed away in blood the memory of ancient friendship." The ladies danced, and looked as lovely as the court of George IV. Yet I knew, even in my dreams, that they had been in the grave for nearly two centuries. This pageant would suddenly dissolve; and, at a clapping of hands, would be heard the heart-quaking sound of *Consul Romanus*; and immediately came [660 "sweeping by," in gorgeous paludaments, Paulus or Marius, girt round by a company of centurions, with the crimson tunic hoisted on a spear, and followed by the *alalagmos* of the Roman legions.

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And now came a tremendous change, which, unfolding itself slowly like a scroll, through many months, promised an abiding torment; and, in fact, it never left me until the winding up of my [670 case. Hitherto the human face had mixed often in my dreams, but not despotically, nor with any special power of tormenting. But now that which I have called the tyranny of the human face began to unfold itself. Perhaps some part of my London life might be answerable for this. Be that as it may, now it was that upon the rocking waters of the ocean the human face began to [680 appear: the sea appeared paved with innumerable faces, upturned to the heavens; faces imploring, wrathful, despairing, surged upwards by thousands, by myriads, by generations, by centuries:—my agitation was infinite,—my mind tossed and surged with the ocean.

May, 1818.

The Malay has been a fearful enemy for months. I have been every night, through his means, transported into [690 Asiatic scenes. I know not whether others share in my feelings on this point; but I have often thought that if I were compelled to forego England, and to live

in China, and among Chinese manners and modes of life and scenery, I should go mad. The causes of my horror lie deep; and some of them must be common to others. Southern Asia, in general, is the seat of awful images and asso- [700 ciations. As the cradle of the human race, it would alone have a dim and reverential feeling connected with it. But there are other reasons. No man can pretend that the wild, barbarous, and capricious superstitions of Africa, or of savage tribes elsewhere, affect him in the way that he is affected by the ancient, monumental, cruel, and elaborate religions of Indostan, etc. The mere [710 antiquity of Asiatic things, of their institutions, histories, modes of faith, etc., is so impressive, that to me the vast age of the race and name overpowers the sense of youth in the individual. A young Chinese seems to me an antediluvian man renewed. Even Englishmen, though not bred in any knowledge of such institutions, cannot but shudder at the mystic sublimity of *castes* that [720 have flowed apart, and refused to mix, through such immemorial tracts of time; nor can any man fail to be awed by the names of the Ganges, or the Euphrates. It contributes much to these feelings, that southern Asia is, and has been for thousands of years, the part of the earth most swarming with human life; the great *officina gentium*. Man is a weed in those regions. The vast empires also, into [730 which the enormous population of Asia has always been cast, give a further sublimity to the feelings associated with all oriental names or images. In China, over and above what it has in common with the rest of southern Asia, I am terrified by the modes of life, by the manners, and the barrier of utter abhorrence, and want of sympathy, placed between us by feelings deeper than I can [740 analyse. I could sooner live with lunatics, or brute animals. All this, and much more than I can say, or have time to say, the reader must enter into before he can comprehend the unimaginable horror which these dreams of oriental imagery, and mythological tortures, impressed upon me. Under the connecting feeling of

tropical heat and vertical sunlights, I brought together all creatures, birds, [750 beasts, reptiles, all trees and plants, usages and appearances, that are found in all tropical regions, and assembled them together in China or Indostan. From kindred feelings, I soon brought Egypt and all her gods under the same law. I was stared at, hooted at, grinned at, chattered at, by monkeys, by parquets, by cockatoos. I ran into pagodas: and was fixed, for centuries, [760 at the summit, or in secret rooms; I was the idol; I was the priest; I was worshipped; I was sacrificed. I fled from the wrath of Brahma through all the forests of Asia: Vishnu hated me: Seeva laid wait for me. I came suddenly upon Isis and Osiris: I had done a deed, they said, which the ibis and the crocodile trembled at. I was buried, for a thousand years, in stone coffins, with mummies [770 and sphinxes, in narrow chambers at the heart of eternal pyramids. I was kissed, with cancerous kisses, by crocodiles; and laid, confounded with all unutterable slimy things, amongst reeds and Nilotic mud.

I thus give the reader some slight abstraction of my oriental dreams, which always filled me with such amazement at the monstrous scenery, that [780 horror seemed absorbed, for a while, in sheer astonishment. Sooner or later, came a reflux of feeling that swallowed up the astonishment, and left me, not so much in terror, as in hatred and abomination of what I saw. Over every form, and threat, and punishment, and dim sightless incarceration, brooded a sense of eternity and infinity that drove me into an oppression as of madness. Into [790 these dreams only, it was, with one or two slight exceptions, that any circumstances of physical horror entered. All before had been moral and spiritual terrors. But here the main agents were ugly birds, or snakes, or crocodiles; especially the last. The cursed crocodile became to me the object of more horror than almost all the rest. I was compelled to live with him; and (as was [800 always the case almost in my dreams) for centuries. I escaped sometimes, and

found myself in Chinese houses, with cane tables, etc. All the feet of the tables, sofas, etc., soon became instinct with life: the abominable head of the crocodile, and his leering eyes, looked out at me, multiplied into a thousand repetitions: and I stood loathing and fascinated. And so often did this hideous [810 reptile haunt my dreams, that many times the very same dream was broken up in the very same way: I heard gentle voices speaking to me (I hear everything when I am sleeping); and instantly I awoke: it was broad noon; and my children were standing, hand in hand, at my bed-side; come to show me their colored shoes, or new frocks, or to let me see them dressed for going out. I protest that so [820 awful was the transition from the damned crocodile, and the other unutterable monsters and abortions of my dreams, to the sight of innocent *human* natures and of infancy, that, in the mighty and sudden revulsion of mind, I wept, and could not forbear it, as I kissed their faces.

ON THE KNOCKING AT THE GATE IN MACBETH

From my boyish days I had always felt a great perplexity on one point in *Macbeth*. It was this:—the knocking at the gate which succeeds to the murder of Duncan produced to my feelings an effect for which I could never account. The effect was that it reflected back upon the murderer a peculiar awfulness and a depth of solemnity; yet however obstinately I endeavored with my un- [10 derstanding to comprehend this, for many years I never could see *why* it should produce such an effect.

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My understanding could furnish no reason why the knocking at the gate in *Macbeth* should produce any effect, direct or reflected. In fact, my understanding said positively that it could *not* produce any effect. But I knew better; I felt that it did; and I waited and clung to the [20 problem until further knowledge should enable me to solve it. At length, in 1812,

Mr. Williams made his *début* on the stage of Ratcliffe Highway, and executed those unparalleled murders which have procured for him such a brilliant and undying reputation. On which murders, by the way, I must observe that in one respect they have had an ill effect, by making the connoisseur in murder very fastidious [30 in his taste, and dissatisfied by anything that has been since done in that line. All other murders look pale by the deep crimson of his; and, as an amateur once said to me in a querulous tone, "There has been absolutely nothing *doing* since his time, or nothing that's worth speaking of." But this is wrong; for it is unreasonable to expect all men to be great artists, and born with the genius of [40 Mr. Williams. Now, it will be remembered that in the first of these murders (that of the Marrs) the same incident (of a knocking at the door soon after the extermination was complete) did actually occur which the genius of Shakespeare has invented; and all good judges, and the most eminent dilettanti, acknowledged the felicity of Shakespeare's suggestion as soon as it was actually [50 realized. Here, then, was a fresh proof that I was right in relying on my own feeling, in opposition to my understanding; and again I set myself to study the problem. At length I solved it to my own satisfaction; and my solution is this:—Murder, in ordinary cases, where the sympathy is wholly directed to the case of the murdered person, is an incident of coarse and vulgar horror; and for [60 this reason,—that it flings the interest exclusively upon the natural but ignoble instinct by which we cleave to life: an instinct which, as being indispensable to the primal law of self-preservation, is the same in kind (though different in degree) amongst all living creatures. This instinct, therefore, because it annihilates all distinctions, and degrades the greatest of men to the level of "the [70 poor beetle that we tread on," exhibits human nature in its most abject and humiliating attitude. Such an attitude would little suit the purposes of the poet. What then must he do? He must throw the interest on the murderer. Our sym-

pathy must be with *him* (of course I mean a sympathy of comprehension, a sympathy by which we enter into his feelings, and are made to understand [80 them,—not a sympathy of pity or approbation). In the murdered person, all strife of thought, all flux and reflux of passion and of purpose, are crushed by one overwhelming panic; the fear of instant death smites him "with its petrific mace." But in the murderer, such a murderer as a poet will condescend to, there must be raging some storm of passion,—jealousy, ambition, vengeance, [90 hatred,—which will create a hell within him; and into this hell we are to look.

In *Macbeth*, for the sake of gratifying his own enormous and teeming faculty of creation, Shakespeare has introduced two murderers: and, as usual in his hands, they are remarkably discriminated: but,—though in *Macbeth* the strife of mind is greater than in his wife, the tiger spirit not so awake, and his feelings caught [100 chiefly by contagion from her,—yet, as both were finally involved in the guilt of murder, the murderous mind of necessity is finally to be presumed in both. This was to be expressed; and, on its own account, as well as to make it a more proportionable antagonist to the unoffending nature of their victim, "the gracious Duncan," and adequately to expound "the deep damnation of his taking [110 off," this was to be expressed with peculiar energy. We were to be made to feel that the human nature,—i. e., the divine nature of love and mercy, spread through the hearts of all creatures, and seldom utterly withdrawn from man,—was gone, vanished, extinct, and that the fiendish nature had taken its place. And, as this effect is marvellously accomplished in the *dialogues* and *soliloquies* [120 themselves, so it is finally consummated by the expedient under consideration; and it is to this that I now solicit the reader's attention. If the reader has ever witnessed a wife, daughter, or sister, in a fainting fit, he may chance to have observed that the most affecting moment in such a spectacle is *that* in which a sigh and a stirring announce the commencement of suspended life. Or, if [130

the reader has ever been present in a vast metropolis on the day when some great national idol was carried in funeral pomp to his grave, and, chancing to walk near the course through which it passed, has felt powerfully, in the silence and desertion of the streets, and in the stagnation of ordinary business, the deep interest which at that moment was possessing the heart of man,—if all at once he [140 should hear the death-like stillness broken up by the sound of wheels rattling away from the scene, and making known that the transitory vision was dissolved, he will be aware that at no moment was his sense of the complete suspension and pause in ordinary human concerns so full and affecting as at that moment when the suspension ceases, and the goings-on of human life are suddenly [150 resumed. All action in any direction is best expounded, measured, and made apprehensible, by reaction. Now, apply this to the case in *Macbeth*. Here, as I have said, the retiring of the human heart and the entrance of the fiendish heart was to be expressed and made sensible. Another world has stepped in; and the murderers are taken out of the region of human things, human purposes, hu- [160 man desires. They are transfigured: Lady Macbeth is "unsexed;" Macbeth has forgot that he was born of woman; both are conformed to the image of devils; and the world of devils is suddenly revealed. But how shall this be conveyed and made palpable? In order that a new world may step in, this world must for a time disappear. The murderers and the murder must be in- [170 sulated—cut off by an immeasurable gulf from the ordinary tide and succession of human affairs—locked up and sequestered in some deep recess; we must be made sensible that the world of ordinary life is suddenly arrested, laid asleep, tranced, racked into a dread armistice; time must be annihilated, relation to things without abolished; and all must pass self-withdrawn into a deep [180 syncope and suspension of earthly passion. Hence it is that, when the deed is done, when the work of darkness is perfect, then the world of darkness passes

away like a pageantry in the clouds: the knocking at the gate is heard, and it makes known audibly that the reaction has commenced; the human has made its reflux upon the fiendish; the pulses of life are beginning to beat again; and the [190 re-establishment of the goings-on of the world in which we live first makes us profoundly sensible of the awful parenthesis that had suspended them.

O mighty poet! Thy works are not as those of other men, simply and merely great works of art, but are also like the phenomena of nature, like the sun and the sea, the stars and the flowers, like frost and snow, rain and dew, hail- [200 storm and thunder, which are to be studied with entire submission of our own faculties, and in the perfect faith that in them there can be no too much or too little, nothing useless or inert, but that, the farther we press in our discoveries, the more we shall see proofs of design and self-supporting arrangement where the careless eye had seen nothing but accident!

LEVANA AND OUR LADIES OF SORROW

From SUSPIRIA DE PROFUNDIS

Oftentimes at Oxford I saw Levana in my dreams. I knew her by her Roman symbols. Who is Levana? Reader, that do not pretend to have leisure for very much scholarship, you will not be angry with me for telling you. Levana was the Roman goddess that performed for the new-born infant the earliest office of ennobling kindness,—typical, by its mode, of that grandeur which belongs to [10 man everywhere, and of that benignity in powers invisible which even in Pagan worlds sometimes descends to sustain it. At the very moment of birth, just as the infant tasted for the first time the atmosphere of our troubled planet, it was laid on the ground. *That* might bear different interpretations. But immediately, lest so grand a creature should grovel there for more than one instant, either the [20 paternal hand, as proxy for the goddess Levana, or some near kinsman, as proxy

for the father, raised it upright, bade it look erect as the king of all this world, and presented its forehead to the stars, saying, perhaps, in his heart, "Behold what is greater than yourselves!" This symbolic act represented the function of Levana. And that mysterious lady, who never revealed her face (except to me [30 in dreams), but always acted by delegation, had her name from the Latin verb (as still it is the Italian verb) *levare*, to raise aloft.

This is the explanation of Levana, and hence it has arisen that some people have understood by Levana the tutelary power that controls the education of the nursery. She, that would not suffer at his birth even a prefigurative or mimic [40 degradation for her awful ward, far less could be supposed to suffer the real degradation attaching to the non-development of his powers. She therefore watches over human education. Now the word *edūco*, with the penultimate short, was derived (by a process often exemplified in the crystallisation of languages) from the world *edūco*, with the penultimate long. Whatsoever *educēs*, or develops, [50 *educates*. By the education of Levana, therefore, is meant,—not the poor machinery that moves by spelling-books and grammars, but that mighty system of central forces hidden in the deep bosom of human life, which by passion, by strife, by temptation, by the energies of resistance, works for ever upon children,—resting not day or night, any more than the mighty wheel of day and night [60 themselves, whose moments, like restless spokes, are glimmering for ever as they revolve.

If, then, *these* are the ministries by which Levana works, how profoundly must she reverence the agencies of grief! But you, reader, think that children generally are not liable to grief such as mine. There are two senses in the word *generally*,—the sense of Euclid, where [70 it means *universally* (or in the whole extent of the *genus*), and a foolish sense of this word, where it means *usually*. Now, I am far from saying that children universally are capable of grief like mine. But there are more than you ever heard

of who die of grief in this island of ours. I will tell you a common case. The rules of Eton require that a boy on the *foundation* should be there twelve years: [80 he is superannuated at eighteen, consequently he must come at six. Children torn away from mothers and sisters at that age not unfrequently die. I speak of what I know. The complaint is not entered by the registrar as grief; but *that* it is. Grief of that sort, and at that age, has killed more than ever have been counted amongst its martyrs.

Therefore it is that Levana often [90 communes with the powers that shake man's heart: therefore it is that she dotes upon grief. "These ladies," said I softly to myself, on seeing the ministers with whom Levana was conversing, "these are the Sorrows; and they are three in number, as the *Graces* are three, who dress man's life with beauty; the *Parcae* are three, who weave the dark arras of man's life in their mysterious loom, [100 always with colors sad in part, sometimes angry with tragic crimson and black; the *Furies* are three, who visit with retributions called from the other side of the grave offences that walk upon this; and once even the *Muses* were but three, who fit the harp, the trumpet, or the lute, to the great burdens of man's impassioned creations. These are the Sorrows, all three of whom I know." The last [110 words I say *now*; but in Oxford I said, "One of whom I know, and the others too surely I *shall* know." For already, in my fervent youth, I saw (dimly relieved upon the dark background of my dreams) the imperfect lineaments of the awful sisters. These sisters—by what name shall we call them? If I say simply, "The Sorrows," there will be a chance of mistaking the term; it might be [120 understood of individual sorrow,—separate cases of sorrow,—whereas I want a term expressing the mighty abstractions that incarnate themselves in all individual sufferings of man's heart; and I wish to have these abstractions presented as impersonations, that is, as clothed with human attributes of life, and with functions pointing to flesh. Let us call them, therefore, *Our Ladies of Sorrow*. [130

I know them thoroughly, and have walked in all their kingdoms. Three sisters they are, of one mysterious household; and their paths are wide apart; but of their dominion there is no end. Them I saw often conversing with Levana, and sometimes about myself. Do they talk, then? Oh, no! Mighty phantoms like these disdain the infirmities of language. They may utter voices through the [140] organs of man when they dwell in human hearts, but amongst themselves is no voice nor sound; eternal silence reigns in *their* kingdoms. *They* spoke not, as they talked with Levana; *they* whispered not; *they* sang not; though oftentimes methought they *might* have sung: for I upon earth had heard their mysteries oftentimes deciphered by harp and timbrel, by dulcimer and organ. Like God, [150] whose servants they are, they utter their pleasure, not by sounds that perish, or by words that go astray, but by signs in heaven, by changes on earth, by pulses in secret rivers, heraldries painted on darkness, and hieroglyphics written on the tablets of the brain. *They* wheeled in mazes; *I* spelled the steps. *They* telegraphed from afar; *I* read the signals. *They* conspired together; and on the [160] mirrors of darkness *my* eye traced the plots. *Theirs* were the symbols; *mine* are the words.

What is it the sisters are? What is it that they do? Let me describe their form, and their presence: if form it were that still fluctuated in its outline, or presence it were that for ever advanced to the front, or for ever receded amongst shades. [170]

The eldest of the three is named *Mater Lachrymarum*, Our Lady of Tears. She it is that night and day raves and moans, calling for vanished faces. She stood in Rama, where a voice was heard of lamentation,—Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted. She it was that stood in Bethlehem on the night when Herod's sword swept its nurseries of Innocents, and the little [180] feet were stiffened for ever, which, heard at times as they tottered along floors overhead, woke pulses of love in household hearts that were not unmarked in heaven.

Her eyes are sweet and subtle, wild and sleepy, by turns; oftentimes rising to the clouds, oftentimes challenging the heavens. She wears a diadem round her head. And I knew by childish memories that she could go abroad upon the winds, [190] when she heard the sobbing of litanies or the thundering of organs, and when she beheld the mustering of summer clouds. This sister, the eldest, it is that carries keys more than papal at her girdle, which open every cottage and every palace. She, to my knowledge, sat all last summer by the bedside of the blind beggar, him that so often and so gladly I talked with, whose pious daughter, [200] eight years old, with the sunny countenance, resisted the temptations of play and village mirth to travel all day long on dusty roads with her afflicted father. For this did God send her a great reward. In the spring-time of the year, and whilst yet her own spring was budding, He recalled her to himself. But her blind father mourns for ever over *her*; still he dreams at midnight that the little [210] guiding hand is locked within his own; and still he wakens to a darkness that is *now* within a second and a deeper darkness. This *Mater Lachrymarum* also has been sitting all this winter of 1844-5 within the bed-chamber of the Czar, bringing before his eyes a daughter (not less pious) that vanished to God not less suddenly, and left behind her a darkness not less profound. By the power of the [220] keys it is that Our Lady of Tears glides a ghostly intruder into the chambers of sleepless men, sleepless women, sleepless children, from Ganges to Nile, from Nile to Mississippi. And her, because she is the first-born of her house, and has the widest empire, let us honor with the title of "Madonna!"

The second sister is called *Mater Suspriorum*—Our Lady of Sighs. She [230] never scales the clouds, nor walks abroad upon the winds. She wears no diadem. And her eyes, if they were ever seen, would be neither sweet nor subtle; no man could read their story; they would be found filled with perishing dreams, and with wrecks of forgotten delirium. But she raises not her eyes; her head, on

which sits a dilapidated turban, droops for ever, for ever fastens on the dust. [240 She weeps not. She groans not. But she sighs inaudibly at intervals. Her sister, Madonna, is oftentimes stormy and frantic, raging in the highest against heaven, and demanding back her darlings. But Our Lady of Sighs never clamors, never defies, dreams not of rebellious aspirations. She is humble to abjectness. Hers is the meekness that belongs to the hopeless. Murmur she may, but it is in [250 her sleep. Whisper she may, but it is to herself in the twilight. Mutter she does at times, but it is in solitary places that are desolate as she is desolate, in ruined cities, and when the sun has gone down to his rest. This sister is the visitor of the Pariah, of the Jew, of the bondsman to the oar in the Mediterranean galleys; and of the English criminal in Norfolk Island, blotted out from the books of remem- [260 brance in sweet far-off England; of the baffled penitent reverting his eyes for ever upon a solitary grave, which to him seems the altar overthrown of some past and bloody sacrifice, on which altar no oblations can now be availing, whether towards pardon that he might implore, or towards reparation that he might attempt. Every slave that at noonday looks up to the tropical sun with timid re- [270 proach, as he points with one hand to the earth, our general mother, but for *him* a stepmother,—as he points with the other hand to the Bible, our general teacher, but against *him* sealed and sequestered;—every woman sitting in darkness, without love to shelter her head, or hope to illumine her solitude, because the heaven-born instincts kindling in her nature germs of holy affections which God [280 implanted in her womanly bosom, having been stifled by social necessities, now burn sullenly to waste, like sepulchral lamps amongst the ancients; every nun defrauded of her unreturning May-time by wicked kinsman, whom God will judge; every captive in every dungeon; all that are betrayed and all that are rejected; outcasts by traditionary law, and children of *hereditary* disgrace,— [290 all these walk with Our Lady of Sighs. She also carries a key; but she needs it

little. For her kingdom is chiefly amongst the tents of Shem, and the houseless vagrant of every clime. Yet in the very highest ranks of man she finds chapels of her own; and even in glorious England there are some that, to the world, carry their heads as proudly as the reindeer, who yet secretly have received her [300 mark upon their foreheads.

But the third sister, who is also the youngest —! Hush, whisper whilst we talk of *her*! Her kingdom is not large, or else no flesh should live; but within that kingdom all power is hers. Her head, turreted like that of Cybele, rises almost beyond the reach of sight. She droops not; and her eyes rising so high *might* be hidden by distance; but, being what [310 they are, they cannot be hidden; through the treble veil of crape which she wears, the fierce light of a blazing misery, that rests not for matins or for vespers, for noon of day or noon of night, for ebbing or for flowing tide, may be read from the very ground. She is the defier of God. She also is the mother of lunacies, and the suggestress of suicides. Deep lie the roots of her power; but narrow is the [320 nation that she rules. For she can approach only those in whom a profound nature has been upheaved by central convulsions; in whom the heart trembles, and the brain rocks under conspiracies of tempest from without and tempest from within. Madonna moves with uncertain steps, fast or slow, but still with tragic grace. Our Lady of Sighs creeps timidly and stealthily. But [330 this youngest sister moves with incalculable motions, bounding, and with tiger's leaps. She carries no key; for, though coming rarely amongst men, she storms all doors at which she is permitted to enter at all. And *her* name is *Mater Tenebrarum*—Our Lady of Darkness.

These were the *Semnai Theai*, or Sublime Goddesses, these were the *Eumenides*, or Gracious Ladies (so called by an- [340 tiquity in shuddering propitiation), of my Oxford dreams. Madonna spoke. She spoke by her mysterious hand. Touching my head, she beckoned to Our Lady of Sighs; and *what* she spoke, translated out of the signs which (ex-

cept in dreams) no man reads, was this:—

“Lo! here is he, whom in childhood I dedicated to my altars. This is he [350 that once I made my darling. Him I led astray, him I beguiled, and from heaven I stole away his young heart to mine. Through me did he become idolatrous; and through me it was, by languishing desires, that he worshipped the worm, and prayed to the wormy grave. Holy was the grave to him; lovely was its darkness; saintly its corruption. Him, this young idolater, I have seasoned for [360 thee, dear gentle Sister of Sighs! Do thou take him now to *thy* heart, and season him for our dreadful sister. And thou,”—turning to the *Mater Tenebrarum*, she

said,—“wicked sister, that temptest and hatest, do thou take him from *her*. See that thy sceptre lie heavy on his head. Suffer not woman and her tenderness to sit near him in his darkness. Banish the frailties of hope, wither the relenting [370 of love, scorch the fountains of tears, curse him as only *thou* canst curse. So shall he be accomplished in the furnace, so shall he see the things that ought *not* to be seen, sights that are abominable, and secrets that are unutterable. So shall he read elder truths, sad truths, grand truths, fearful truths. So shall he rise again *before* he dies, and so shall our commission be accomplished which from [380 God we had,—to plague his heart until we had unfolded the capacities of his spirit.”

THE VICTORIAN AGE

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR
(1775-1864)

ROSE AYLMER

Ah what avails the sceptred race,
Ah what the form divine!
What every virtue, every grace!
Rose Aylmer, all were thine.
Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes 5
May weep, but never see,
A night of memories and of sighs
I consecrate to thee.

THE DEATH OF ARTEMIDORA

"Artemidora! Gods invisible,
While thou art lying faint along the
couch,
Have tied the sandal to thy slender feet
And stand beside thee, ready to convey
Thy weary steps where other rivers flow. 5
Refreshing shades will waft thy weariness
Away, and voices like thy own come near
And nearer, and solicit an embrace."

Artemidora sighed, and would have
pressed
The hand now pressing hers, but was too
weak. 10

Iris stood over her dark hair unseen
While thus Elpenor spake. He looked
into

Eyes that had given light and life ere-
while

To those above them, but now dim with
tears

And wakefulness. Again he spake of joy 15
Eternal. At that word, that sad word,
joy,

Faithful and fond her bosom heaved once
more:

Her head fell back; and now a loud deep
sob

Swelled through the darkened chamber;
'twas not hers.

SAPPHO TO HESPERUS

I have beheld thee in the morning hour
A solitary star, with thankless eyes,
Ungrateful as I am! who bade thee rise
When sleep all night had wandered from
my bower.

Can it be true that thou art he 5
Who shinest now above the sea
Amid a thousand, but more bright?
Ah yes! the very same art thou
That heard me then and hearest now—
Thou seemest, star of love! to throb with
light. 10

ONE YEAR AGO

One year ago my path was green,
My footstep light, my brow serene;
Alas! and could it have been so
One year ago?

There is a love that is to last 5
When the hot days of youth are past:
Such love did a sweet maid bestow
One year ago.

I took a leaflet from her braid
And gave it to another maid. 10
Love! broken should have been thy bow
One year ago.

TO ROBERT BROWNING

There is delight in singing, though none
hear

Beside the singer; and there is delight
In praising, though the praiser sit alone
And see the praised far off him, far above.
Shakespeare is not our poet, but the
world's, 5

Therefore on him no speech! and brief for
thee,

Browning! Since Chaucer was alive and
hale,

No man hath walked about our roads with
 step
 So active, so inquiring eye, or tongue
 So varied in discourse. But warmer
 climes 10
 Give brighter plumage, stronger wing: the
 breeze
 Of Alpine heights thou playest with,
 borne on
 Beyond Sorrento and Amalfi, where
 The Siren waits thee, singing song for song.

ON THE HELLENICS

Come back, ye wandering Muses, come
 back home,
 Ye seem to have forgotten where it lies:
 Come, let us walk upon the silent sands
 Of Simois, where deep footmarks show
 long strides;
 Thence we may mount, perhaps, to higher
 ground, 5
 Where Aphroditè from Athenè won
 The golden apple, and from Herè too,
 And happy Ares shouted far below.
 Or would ye rather choose the grassy
 vale
 Where flows Anapos through anemones, 10
 Hyacinths, and narcissuses, that bend
 To show their rival beauty in the stream?
 Bring with you each her lyre, and each
 in turn
 Temper a graver with a lighter song.

IPHIGENEIA AND AGAMEMNON

Iphigeneia, when she heard her doom
 At Aulis, and when all beside the King
 Had gone away, took his right hand, and
 said,
 "O father! I am young and very happy.
 I do not think the pious Calchas heard 5
 Distinctly what the goddess spake. Old
 age
 Obscures the senses. If my nurse, who
 knew
 My voice so well, sometimes misunder-
 stood
 While I was resting on her knee both arms
 And hitting it to make her mind my words,
 And looking in her face, and she in
 mine, 11

Might he not also hear one word amiss,
 Spoken from so far off, even from Olym-
 pus?"
 The father placed his cheek upon her
 head,
 And tears dropped down it, but the king
 of men 15
 Replied not. Then the maiden spake once
 more.
 "O father! sayst thou nothing? Hear'st
 thou not
 Me, whom thou ever hast, until this hour,
 Listened to fondly, and awakened me
 To hear my voice amid the voice of birds, 20
 When it was inarticulate as theirs,
 And the down deadened it within the
 nest?"
 He moved her gently from him, silent still,
 And this, and this alone, brought tears
 from her,
 Although she saw fate nearer: then with
 sighs, 25
 "I thought to have laid down my hair
 before
 Benignant Artemis, and not have dimmed
 Her polished altar with my virgin blood;
 I thought to have selected the white
 flowers
 To please the Nymphs, and to have asked
 of each 30
 By name, and with no sorrowful regret,
 Whether, since both my parents willed the
 change,
 I might at Hymen's feet bend my clipped
 brow;
 And (after those who mind us girls the
 most)
 Adore our own Athena, that she would 35
 Regard me mildly with her azure eyes.
 But father! to see you no more, and see
 Your love, O father! go ere I am gone—"
 Gently he moved her off, and drew her
 back,
 Bending his lofty head far over hers, 40
 And the dark depths of nature heaved and
 burst.
 He turned away; not far, but silent still.
 She now first shuddered; for in him, so
 nigh,
 So long a silence seemed the approach of
 death,
 And like it. Once again she raised her
 voice. 45
 "O father! if the ships are now detained,

And all your vows move not the Gods above,
 When the knife strikes me there will be one
 prayer
 The less to them: and purer can there be
 Any, or more fervent than the daughter's
 prayer 50
 For her dear father's safety and success?"
 A groan that shook him shook not his
 resolve.
 An aged man now entered, and without
 One word, stepped slowly on, and took the
 wrist
 Of the pale maiden. She looked up and
 saw 55
 The fillet of the priest and calm cold eyes.
 Then turned she where her parent stood,
 and cried
 "O father! grieve no more: the ships can
 sail."

TO YOUTH

Where art thou gone, light-ankled Youth?
 With wing at either shoulder,
 And smile that never left thy mouth
 Until the Hours grew colder:

Then somewhat seemed to whisper near 5
 That thou and I must part;
 I doubted it: I felt no fear,
 No weight upon the heart:

If aught befell it, Love was by
 And rolled it off again; 10
 So, if there ever was a sigh,
 'Twas not a sigh of pain.

I may not call thee back; but thou
 Returnest when the hand
 Of gentle Sleep waves o'er my brow 15
 His poppy-crested wand;

Then smiling eyes bend over mine,
 Then lips once pressed invite;
 But Sleep hath given a silent sign,
 And both, alas! take flight. 20

TO AGE

Welcome, old friend! These many years
 Have we lived door by door:
 The fates have laid aside their shears
 Perhaps for some few more.

I was indocile at an age 5
 When better boys were taught,
 But thou at length hast made me sage,
 If I am sage in aught.

Little I know from other men,
 Too little they from me, 10
 But thou hast pointed well the pen
 That writes these lines to thee.

Thanks for expelling Fear and Hope,
 One vile, the other vain;
 One's scourge, the other's telescope, 15
 I shall not see again;

Rather what lies before my feet
 My notice shall engage—
 He who hath braved Youth's dizzy heat
 Dreads not the frost of Age. 20

ON HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTH-DAY

I strove with none, for none was worth
 my strife,
 Nature I loved, and next to Nature,
 Art;
 I warmed both hands before the fire of
 life,
 It sinks, and I am ready to depart.

TO MY NINTH DECADE

To my ninth decade I have tottered on,
 And no soft arm bends now my steps
 to steady;
 She, who once led me where she would,
 is gone,
 So when he calls me, Death shall find
 me ready.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON
 (1809-1892)

THE LADY OF SHALOTT

PART I

On either side the river lie
 Long fields of barley and of rye,
 That clothe the wold and meet the sky;
 And through the field the road runs by 5
 To many-towered Camelot;

And up and down the people go,
Gazing where the lilies blow
Round an island there below,
The island of Shalott.

Willows whiten, aspens quiver, 10
Little breezes dusk and shiver
Through the wave that runs for ever
By the island in the river
Flowing down to Camelot.

Four gray walls, and four gray towers, 15
Overlook a space of flowers,
And the silent isle imbowers
The Lady of Shalott.

By the margin, willow-veiled,
Slide the heavy barges trailed 20
By slow horses; and unhailed
The shallop flitteth silken-sailed
Skimming down to Camelot;
But who hath seen her wave her hand?
Or at the casement seen her stand? 25
Or is she known in all the land,
The Lady of Shalott?

Only reapers, reaping early
In among the bearded barley,
Hear a song that echoes cheerly 30
From the river winding clearly,
Down to towered Camelot;
And by the moon the reaper weary,
Piling sheaves in uplands airy,
Listening, whispers "'Tis the fairy 35
Lady of Shalott."

PART II

There she weaves by night and day
A magic web with colors gay.
She has heard a whisper say,
A curse is on her if she stay 40
To look down to Camelot.
She knows not what the curse may be,
And so she weaveth steadily,
And little other care hath she,
The Lady of Shalott. 45

And moving through a mirror clear
That hangs before her all the year,
Shadows of the world appear.
There she sees the highway near
Winding down to Camelot; 50
There the river eddy whirls,
And there the surly village-churls,
And the red cloaks of market girls,
Pass onward from Shalott.

Sometimes a troop of damsels glad, 55
An abbot on an ambling pad,
Sometimes a curly shepherd-lad,
Or long-haired page in crimson clad,
Goes by to towered Camelot;
And sometimes through the mirror blue 60
The knights come riding two and two:
She hath no loyal knight and true,
The Lady of Shalott.

But in her web she still delights
To weave the mirror's magic sights, 65
For often through the silent nights
A funeral, with plumes and lights
And music, went to Camelot;
Or when the moon was overhead,
Came two young lovers lately wed; 70
"I am half sick of shadows," said
The Lady of Shalott.

PART III

A bow-shot from her bower-eaves,
He rode between the barley-sheaves,
The sun came dazzling through the 75
leaves,
And flamed upon the brazen greaves
Of bold Sir Lancelot.
A red-cross knight for ever kneeled,
To a lady in his shield,
That sparkled on the yellow field, 80
Beside remote Shalott.

The gemmy bridle glittered free,
Like to some branch of stars we see
Hung in the golden Galaxy.
The bridle bells rang merrily 85
As he rode down to Camelot;
And from his blazoned baldric slung
A mighty silver bugle hung,
And as he rode his armor rung,
Beside remote Shalott. 90

All in the blue unclouded weather
Thick-jeweled shone the saddle-leather,
The helmet and the helmet-feather
Burned like one burning flame together, 95
As he rode down to Camelot;
As often through the purple night,
Below the starry clusters bright,
Some bearded meteor, trailing light,
Moves over still Shalott. 99

His broad clear brow in sunlight glowed;
On burnished hooves his war-horse trode;

From underneath his helmet flowed
His coal-black curls as on he rode,
As he rode down to Camelot.
From the bank and from the river 105
He flashed into the crystal mirror,
"Tirra lirra," by the river
Sang Sir Lancelot.

She left the web, she left the loom,
She made three paces through the room,
She saw the water-lily bloom, 111
She saw the helmet and the plume,
She looked down to Camelot.
Out flew the web and floated wide;
The mirror cracked from side to side; 115
"The curse is come upon me," cried
The Lady of Shalott.

PART IV

In the stormy east-wind straining,
The pale yellow woods were waning,
The broad stream in his banks complain- 120
ing,
Heavily the low sky raining
Over towered Camelot;
Down she came and found a boat
Beneath a willow left afloat,
And round about the prow she wrote 125
The Lady of Shalott.

And down the river's dim expanse
Like some bold seër in a trance,
Seeing all his own mischance—
With a glassy countenance 130
Did she look to Camelot.
And at the closing of the day
She loosed the chain, and down she lay;
The broad stream bore her far away,
The Lady of Shalott. 135

Lying robed in snowy white
That loosely flew to left and right—
The leaves upon her falling light—
Through the noises of the night
She floated down to Camelot; 140
And as the boat-head wound along
The willowy hills and fields among,
They heard her singing her last song,
The Lady of Shalott.

Heard a carol, mournful, holy, 145
Chanted loudly, chanted lowly,
Till her blood was frozen slowly,
And her eyes were darkened wholly,
Turned to towered Camelot.

For ere she reached upon the tide 150
The first house by the water-side,
Singing in her song she died,
The Lady of Shalott.

Under tower and balcony,
By garden-wall and gallery, 155
A gleaming shape she floated by,
Dead-pale between the houses high,
Silent into Camelot.
Out upon the wharfs they came,
Knight and burgher, lord and dame, 160
And round the prow they read her name,
The Lady of Shalott.

Who is this? and what is here?
And in the lighted palace near
Died the sound of royal cheer; 165
And they crossed themselves for fear,
All the knights at Camelot;
But Lancelot mused a little space;
He said, "She has a lovely face;
God in his mercy lend her grace, 170
The Lady of Shalott."

ÆNONE

There lies a vale in Ida, lovelier
Than all the valleys of Ionian hills.
The swimming vapor slopes athwart the
glen,
Puts forth an arm, and creeps from pine
to pine,
And loiters, slowly drawn. On either hand
The lawns and meadow-ledges midway
down 6
Hang rich in flowers, and far below them
roars
The long brook falling through the cloven
ravine
In cataract after cataract to the sea.
Behind the valley topmost Gargarus 10
Stands up and takes the morning; but in
front
The gorges, opening wide apart, reveal
Troas and Ilion's columned citadel,
The crown of Troas.

Hither came at noon
Mournful Ænone, wandering forlorn 15
Of Paris, once her playmate on the hills.
Her cheek had lost the rose, and round
her neck
Floated her hair or seemed to float in rest.

She, leaning on a fragment twined with
vine,
Sang to the stillness, till the mountain-
shade 20
Sloped downward to her seat from the
upper cliff.

"O mother Ida, many fountained Ida,
Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
For now the noonday quiet holds the hill;
The grasshopper is silent in the grass; 25
The lizard, with his shadow on the stone,
Rests like a shadow, and the winds are
dead.
The purple flower droops, the golden bee
Is lily-cradled: I alone awake. 29
My eyes are full of tears, my heart of love,
My heart is breaking and my eyes are dim,
And I am all awary of my life.

"O mother Ida, many-fountained Ida,
Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
Hear me, O earth, hear me, O hills, O
caves 35
That house the cold crowned snake! O
mountain brooks,
I am the daughter of a River-God,
Hear me, for I will speak, and build up all
My sorrow with my song, as yonder walls
Rose slowly to a music slowly breathed, 40
A cloud that gathered shape; for it may be
That, while I speak of it, a little while
My heart may wander from its deeper woe.

"O mother Ida, many-fountained Ida,
Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die. 45
I waited underneath the dawning hills;
Aloft the mountain-lawn was dewy-dark,
And dewy-dark aloft the mountain-pine.
Beautiful Paris, evil-hearted Paris,
Leading a jet-black goat, white-horned,
white-hooved, 50
Came up from reedy Simois all alone.

"O mother Ida, harken ere I die.
Far off the torrent called me from the cleft;
Far up the solitary morning smote
The streaks of virgin snow. With down-
dropped eyes 55
I sat alone; white-breasted like a star
Fronting the dawn he moved; a leopard
skin
Drooped from his shoulder, but his sunny
hair

Clustered about his temples like a God's;
And his cheek brightened as the foam-
bow brightens 60
When the wind blows the foam, and all my
heart
Went forth to embrace him coming ere
he came.

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
He smiled, and opening out his milk-
white palm
Disclosed a fruit of pure Hesperian gold, 65
That smelled ambrosially, and while I
looked
And listened, the full-flowing river of
speech
Came down upon my heart:
'My own Ænone,
Beautiful-browed Ænone, my own soul,
Behold this fruit, whose gleaming rind in-
graven 70
For the most fair, would seem to award it
thine,
As lovelier than whatever Oread haunt
The knolls of Ida, loveliest in all grace
Of movement, and the charm of married
brows.'

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die. 75
He pressed the blossom of his lips to mine,
And added, 'This was cast upon the board,
When all the full-faced presence of the
Gods
Ranged in the halls of Peleus; whereupon
Rose feud, with question unto whom 'twere
due; 80
But light-foot Iris brought it yester-eve,
Delivering, that to me, by common voice
Elected umpire, Herè comes to-day,
Pallas and Aphrodite, claiming each
This meed of fairest. Thou, within the
cave 85
Behind yon whispering tuft of oldest pine,
Mayst well behold them unbeheld, unheard
Hear all, and see thy Paris judge of Gods.'

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
It was the deep midnight; one silvery cloud
Had lost his way between the piny sides 91
Of this long glen. Then to the bower they
came,
Naked they came to that smooth-swarded
bower,
And at their feet the crocus brake like fire,

Violet, amaracus, and asphodel, 95
 Lotos and lilies; and a wind arose,
 And overhead the wandering ivy and vine,
 This way and that, in many a wild fes-
 toon

Ran riot, garlanding the gnarlèd boughs
 With bunch and berry and flower through
 and through. 100

"O mother Ida, harken ere I die.
 On the tree-tops a crested peacock lit,
 And o'er him flowed a golden cloud, and
 leaned

Upon him, slowly dropping fragrant dew.
 Then first I heard the voice of her to whom
 Coming through heaven, like a light that
 grows 106

Larger and clearer, with one mind the
 Gods

Rise up for reverence. She to Paris made
 Proffer of royal power, ample rule
 Unquestioned, overflowing revenue 110
 Wherewith to embellish state, 'from many
 a vale

And river-sundered champaign clothed
 with corn,

Or labored mine undrainable of ore.
 Honor,' she said, 'and homage, tax and
 toll,

From many an inland town and haven
 large, 115

Mast-thronged beneath her shadowing
 citadel

In glassy bays among her tallest towers.'

"O mother Ida, harken ere I die.
 Still she spake on and still she spake of
 power,

'Which in all action is the end of all; 120
 Power fitted to the season; wisdom-bred
 And throned of wisdom—from all neighbor
 crowns

Alliance and allegiance, till thy hand
 Fail from the sceptre-staff. Such boon
 from me,

From me, heaven's queen, Paris, to thee
 king-born, 125

A shepherd all thy life but yet king-born,
 Should come most welcome, seeing men,
 in power

Only, are likest Gods, who have attained
 Rest in a happy place and quiet seats
 Above the thunder, with undying bliss 130
 In knowledge of their own supremacy.'

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
 She ceased, and Paris held the costly fruit
 Out at arm's-length, so much the thought
 of power

Flattered his spirit; but Pallas where she
 stood 135

Somewhat apart, her clear and barèd limbs
 O'erthwarted with the brazen-headed spear
 Upon her pearly shoulder leaning cold,
 The while, above, her full and earnest eye
 Over her snow-cold breast and angry cheek
 Kept watch, waiting decision, made
 reply: 141

'Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,
 These three alone lead life to sovereign
 power.

Yet not for power (power of herself
 Would come uncalled for) but to live by
 law, 145

Acting the law we live by without fear;
 And, because right is right, to follow right
 Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence.'

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
 Again she said: 'I woo thee not with gifts.
 Sequel of guerdon could not alter me 151
 To fairer. Judge thou me by what I am,
 So shalt thou find me fairest.

Yet, indeed,
 If gazing on divinity disrobed
 Thy mortal eyes are frail to judge of fair,
 Unbiased by self-profit, O, rest thee sure
 That I shall love thee well and cleave to
 thee, 157

So that my vigor, wedded to thy blood,
 Shall strike within thy pulses, like a
 God's,

To push thee forward through a life of
 shocks, 160

Dangers, and deeds, until endurance grow
 Sinewed with action, and the full-grown
 will,

Circled through all experiences, pure law,
 Commensure perfect freedom.'

Here she ceased,
 And Paris pondered and I cried, 'O Paris,
 Give it to Pallas!' but he heard me not, 166
 Or hearing would not hear me, woe is me!

"O mother Ida, many-fountained Ida,
 Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.
 Italian Aphrodite beautiful, 170
 Fresh as the foam, new-bathed in Paphian
 wells,

With rosy slender fingers backward drew
From her warm brows and bosom her
deep hair

Ambrosial, golden round her lucid throat
And shoulder; from the violets her light
foot 175

Shone rosy-white, and o'er her rounded
form

Between the shadows of the vine-bunches
Floated the glowing sunlights, as she
moved.

"Dear mother Ida, harken ere I die.

She with a subtle smile in her mild eyes,
The herald of her triumph, drawing nigh
Half-whispered in his ear, 'I promise
thee 182

The fairest and most loving wife in Greece.'
She spoke and laughed; I shut my sight
for fear;

But when I looked, Paris had raised his
arm, 185

And I beheld great Herè's angry eyes,
As she withdrew into the golden cloud,
And I was left alone within the bower;
And from that time to this I am alone,
And I shall be alone until I die. 190

"Yet, mother Ida, harken ere I die.

Fairest—why fairest wife? am I not fair?
My love hath told me so a thousand times.
Methinks I must be fair, for yesterday,
When I passed by, a wild and wanton
pard,¹ 195

Eyed like the evening star, with playful
tail

Crouched fawning in the weed. Most
loving is she?

Ah me, my mountain shepherd, that my
arms

Were wound about thee, and my hot lips
pressed

Close, close to thine in that quick-falling
dew 200

Of fruitful kisses, thick as autumn rains
Flash in the pools of whirling Simois!

"O mother, hear me yet before I die.

They came, they cut away my tallest pines,
My tall dark pines, that plumed the craggy
ledge 205

High over the blue gorge, and all between
The snowy peak and snow-white cataract

¹ leopard.

Fostered the callow eaglet—from beneath
Whose thick mysterious boughs in the dark
morn

The panther's roar came muffled, while I
sat 210

Low in the valley. Never, never more
Shall lone Cœnone see the morning mist
Sweep through them; never see them over-
laid

With narrow moonlit slips of silver cloud,
Between the loud stream and the tremb-
ling stars. 215

"O mother, hear me yet before I die.

I wish that somewhere in the ruined folds,
Among the fragments tumbled from the
glens,

Or the dry thickets, I could meet with her
The Abominable, that uninvited came 220
Into the fair Peleïan banquet-hall,
And cast the golden fruit upon the board,
And bred this change; that I might speak
my mind,

And tell her to her face how much I hate
Her presence, hated both of Gods and
men. 225

"O mother, hear me yet before I die.

Hath he not sworn his love a thousand
times,

In this green valley, under this green hill,
Even on this hand, and sitting on this
stone?

Sealed it with kisses? watered it with
tears? 230

O happy tears, and how unlike to these!
O happy heaven, how canst thou see my
face?

O happy earth, how canst thou bear my
weight?

O death, death, death, thou ever-floating
cloud, 234

There are enough unhappy on this earth,
Pass by the happy souls, that love to live;
I pray thee, pass before my light of life,
And shadow all my soul, that I may die.
Thou weighest heavy on the heart within,
Weigh heavy on my eyelids; let me die. 240

"O mother, hear me yet before I die.

I will not die alone, for fiery thoughts
Do shape themselves within me, more and
more,

Whereof I catch the issue, as I hear

Dead sounds at night come from the in-
most hills, 245
Like footsteps upon wool. I dimly see
My far-off doubtful purpose, as a mother
Conjectures of the features of her child
Ere it is born. Her child!—a shudder
comes

Across me: never child be born of me 250
Unblest, to vex me with his father's eyes!

"O mother, hear me yet before I die.
Hear me, O earth. I will not die alone,
Lest their shrill happy laughter come to me
Walking the cold and starless road of death
Uncomforted, leaving my ancient love 256
With the Greek woman. I will rise and go
Down into Troy, and ere the stars come
forth

Talk with the wild Cassandra, for she says
A fire dances before her, and a sound 260
Rings ever in her ears of armed men.

What this may be I know not, but I know
That, whereso'er I am by night and day,
All earth and air seem only burning fire."

THE LOTOS-EATERS

"Courage!" he said, and pointed toward
the land,

"This mounting wave will roll us shore-
ward soon."

In the afternoon they came unto a land
In which it seemèd always afternoon.

All round the coast the languid air did
swoon, 5

Breathing like one that hath a weary
dream.

Full-faced above the valley stood the
moon;

And, like a downward smoke, the slender
stream

Along the cliff to fall and pause and fall
did seem.

A land of streams! some, like a downward
smoke, 10

Slow-dropping veils of thinnest lawn, did go;
And some through wavering lights and
shadows broke,

Rolling a slumbrous sheet of foam below.

They saw the gleaming river seaward flow
From the inner land; far off, three moun-
tain-tops, 15

Three silent pinnacles of aged snow,
Stood sunset-flushed; and, dewed with
showery drops,
Up-clomb the shadowy pine above the
woven copse.

The charmèd sunset lingered low adown
In the red West; through mountain clefts
the dale 20

Was seen far inland, and the yellow down
Bordered with palm, and many a winding
vale

And meadow, set with slender galingale;¹
A land where all things always seemed
the same!

And round about the keel with faces
pale, 25

Dark faces pale against that rosy flame,
The mild-eyed melancholy Lotos-eaters
came.

Branches they bore of that enchanted
stem,

Laden with flower and fruit, whereof they
gave

To each, but whoso did receive of them 30
And taste, to him the gushing of the
wave

Far far away, did seem to mourn and
rave

On alien shores; and if his fellow spake,
His voice was thin, as voices from the
grave;

And deep-asleep he seemed, yet all awake,
And music in his ears his beating heart
did make. 36

They sat them down upon the yellow
sand,

Between the sun and moon upon the shore;
And sweet it was to dream of Fatherland,
Of child, and wife, and slave; but ever-
more 40

Most weary seemed the sea, weary the
oar,

Weary the wandering fields of barren
foam.

Then some one said, "We will return no
more;"

And all at once they sang, "Our island
home

Is far beyond the wave; we will no
longer roam." 45

¹ reeds, sedge.

A DREAM OF FAIR WOMEN

I read, before my eyelids dropped their
 shade,
 "The Legend of Good Women," long
 ago
 Sung by the morning-star of song, who
 made
 His music heard below;
 Dan Chaucer, the first warbler, whose
 sweet breath 5
 Preluded those melodious bursts that fill
 The spacious times of great Elizabeth
 With sounds that echo still.
 And, for a while, the knowledge of his art
 Held me above the subject, as strong
 gales 10
 Hold swollen clouds from raining, though
 my heart,
 Brimful of those wild tales,
 Charged both mine eyes with tears. In
 every land
 I saw, wherever light illumineth,
 Beauty and anguish walking hand in hand
 The downward slope to death. 16
 Those far-renowned brides of ancient song
 Peopled the hollow dark, like burning
 stars,
 And I heard sounds of insult, shame, and
 wrong,
 And trumpets blown for wars; 20
 And clattering flints battered with clang-
 ing hoofs;
 And I saw crowds in columned sanc-
 tuaries;
 And forms that passed at windows and on
 roofs
 Of marble palaces;
 Corpses across the threshold; heroes tall 25
 Dislodging pinnacle and parapet
 Upon the tortoise creeping to the wall;
 Lances in ambush set;
 And high shrine-doors burst through with
 heated blasts
 That run before the fluttering tongues
 of fire; 30
 White surf wind-scattered over sails and
 masts,
 And ever climbing higher;

Squadrons and squares of men in brazen
 plates,
 Scaffolds, still sheets of water, divers
 woes,
 Ranges of glimmering vaults with iron
 grates, 35
 And hushed seraglios.

So shape chased shape as swift as, when to
 land
 Bluster the winds and tides the self-same
 way,
 Crisp foam-flakes scud along the level sand
 Torn from the fringe of spray. 40

I started once, or seemed to start in pain,
 Resolved on noble things, and strove to
 speak,
 As when a great thought strikes along the
 brain,
 And flushes all the cheek.

And once my arm was lifted to hew down 45
 A cavalier from off his saddle-bow,
 That bore a lady from a leaguered town;
 And then, I know not how,

All those sharp fancies, by down-lapsing
 thought
 Streamed onward, lost their edges, and
 did creep
 Rolled on each other, rounded, smoothed,
 and brought 51
 Into the gulfs of sleep.

At last methought that I had wandered far
 In an old wood: fresh-washed in coolest
 dew
 The maiden splendors of the morning star 55
 Shook in the steadfast blue.

Enormous elm-tree-boles did stoop and
 lean
 Upon the dusky brushwood underneath
 Their broad curved branches, fledged with
 clearest green,
 New from its silken sheath. 60

The dim red morn had died, her journey
 done,
 And with dead lips smiled at the twi-
 light plain,
 Half-fallen across the threshold of the sun,
 Never to rise again.

There was no motion in the dumb dead
 air, 65
 Not any song of bird or sound of rill;
 Gross darkness of the inner sepulchre
 Is not so deadly still

As that wide forest. Growths of jasmine
 turned
 Their humid arms festooning tree to
 tree, 70
 And at the root through lush green grasses
 burned
 The red anemone.

I knew the flowers, I knew the leaves, I
 knew
 The tearful glimmer of the languid
 dawn
 On those long, rank, dark wood-walks
 drenched in dew, 75
 Leading from lawn to lawn.

The smell of violets, hidden in the green,
 Poured back into my empty soul and
 frame
 The times when I remember to have been
 Joyful and free from blame. 80

And from within me a clear undertone
 Thrilled through mine ears in that un-
 blissful clime,
 "Pass freely through: the wood is all thine
 own,
 Until the end of time."

At length I saw a lady within call, 85
 Stillter than chiselled marble, standing
 there;
 A daughter of the gods, divinely tall,
 And most divinely fair.

Her loveliness with shame and with sur-
 prise
 Froze my swift speech: she, turning on
 my face 90
 The star-like sorrows of immortal eyes,
 Spoke slowly in her place:

"I had great beauty: ask thou not my
 name:
 No one can be more wise than destiny.
 Many drew swords and died. Where'er
 I came 95
 I brought calamity."

"No marvel, sovereign lady: in fair field
 Myself for such a face had boldly died,"
 I answered free; and turning I appealed
 To one that stood beside. 100

But she, with sick and scornful looks
 averse,
 To her full height her stately stature
 draws;
 "My youth," she said, "was blasted with
 a curse:
 This woman was the cause.

"I was cut off from hope in that sad
 place 105
 Which men called Aulis in those iron
 years;
 My father held his hand upon his face;
 I, blinded with my tears,

"Still strove to speak: my voice was thick
 with sighs
 As in a dream. Dimly I could descry 110
 The stern black-bearded kings with wolfish
 eyes,
 Waiting to see me die.

"The high masts flickered as they lay
 afloat;
 The crowds, the temples, wavered, and
 the shore;
 The bright death quivered at the victim's
 throat— 115
 Touched—and I knew no more."

Whereto the other with a downward brow:
 "I would the white cold heavy-plunging
 foam,
 Whirled by the wind, had rolled me deep
 below,
 Then when I left my home." 120

Her slow full words sank through the
 silence drear,
 As thunder-drops fall on a sleeping sea:
 Sudden I heard a voice that cried, "Come
 here,
 That I may look on thee."

I turning saw, throned on a flowery rise, 125
 One sitting on a crimson scarf unrolled;
 A queen, with swarthy cheeks and bold
 black eyes,
 Brow-bound with burning gold.

She, flashing forth a haughty smile, began:

"I governed men by change, and so I
swayed 130

All moods. 'Tis long since I have seen a
man.

Once, like the moon, I made

"The ever-shifting currents of the blood
According to my humor ebb and flow.

I have no men to govern in this wood: 135
That makes my only woe.

"Nay—yet it chafes me that I could not
bend

One will; nor tame and tutor with mine
eye

That dull, cold-blooded Cæsar. Prythee,
friend,

Where is Mark Antony? 140

"The man, my lover, with whom I rode
sublime

On Fortune's neck; we sat as God by
God;

The Nilus would have risen before his time
And flooded at our nod.

"We drank the Libyan Sun to sleep, and
lit 145

Lamps which out-burned Canopus. Oh,
my life

In Egypt! Oh, the dalliance and the wit,
The flattery and the strife,

"And the wild kiss, when fresh from war's
alarms,

My Hercules, my Roman Antony, 150

My mailed Bacchus leaped into my arms,
Contented there to die!

"And there he died: and when I heard my
name

Sighed forth with life, I would not brook
my fear

Of the other; with a worm I balked his
fame. 155

What else was left? look here!"—

With that she tore her robe apart, and
half

The polished argent of her breast to sight
Laid bare. Thereto she pointed with a
laugh,

Showing the aspic's bite.— 160

"I died a Queen. The Roman soldier found
Me lying dead, my crown about my
brows,

A name for ever!—lying robed and crowned
Worthy a Roman spouse."

Her warbling voice, a lyre of widest range
Struck by all passion, did fall down and
glance 166

From tone to tone, and glided through
all change
Of liveliest utterance.

When she made pause I knew not for de-
light;

Because with sudden motion from the
ground 170

She raised her piercing orbs, and filled
with light

The interval of sound.

Still with their fires Love tipped his keenest
darts:

As once they drew into two burning rings
All beams of Love, melting the mighty
hearts 175

Of captains and of kings.

Slowly my sense undazzled. Then I heard
A noise of some one coming through the
lawn,

And singing clearer than the crested bird
That claps his wings at dawn: 180

"The torrent brooks of hallowed Israel
From craggy hollows pouring, late and
soon,

Sound all night long, in falling through
the dell,

Far-heard beneath the moon.

"The balmy moon of blessed Israel 185
Floods all the deep-blue gloom with
beams divine;

All night the splintered crags that wall
the dell

With spires of silver shine."

As one that museth where broad sunshine
laves

The lawn by some cathedral, through
the door 190

Hearing the holy organ rolling waves
Of sound on roof and floor

Within, and anthem sung, is charmed and
tied
To where he stands,—so stood I, when
that flow
Of music left the lips of her that died 195
To save her father's vow;

The daughter of the warrior Gileadite,
A maiden pure; as when she went along
From Mizpah's towered gate with wel-
come light,
With timbrel and with song. 200

My words leapt forth: "Heaven heads the
count of crimes
With that wild oath." She rendered
answer high:
"Not so, nor once alone; a thousand times
I would be born and die.

"Single I grew, like some green plant,
whose root 205
Creeps to the garden water-pipes be-
neath,
Feeding the flower; but ere my flower to
fruit
Changed, I was ripe for death.

"My God, my land, my father—these did
move
Me from my bliss of life, that Nature
gave, 210
Lowered softly with a threefold cord of
love
Down to a silent grave.

"And I went mourning, 'No fair Hebrew
boy
Shall smile away my maiden blame
among
The Hebrew mothers'—emptied of all joy,
Leaving the dance and song, 216

"Leaving the olive-gardens far below,
Leaving the promise of my bridal bower,
The valleys of grape-loaded vines that glow
Beneath the battled tower. 220

"The light white cloud swam over us.
Anon
We heard the lion roaring from his den;
We saw the large white stars rise one by
one,
Or, from the darkened glen,

"Saw God divide the night with flying
flame, 225
And thunder on the everlasting hills.
I heard Him, for He spake, and grief be-
came
A solemn scorn of ills.

"When the next moon was rolled into the
sky,
Strength came to me that equalled my
desire. 230
How beautiful a thing it was to die
For God and for my sire!

"It comforts me in this one thought to
dwell,
That I subdued me to my father's
will;
Because the kiss he gave me, ere I fell, 235
Sweetens the spirit still.

"Moreover it is written that my race
Hewed Ammon, hip and thigh, from
Aroer
On Arnon unto Minneth." Here her face
Glowed, as I looked at her. 240

She locked her lips: she left me where I
stood:
"Glory to God," she sang, and passed
afar,
Thridding the sombre boskage¹ of the
wood,
Toward the morning-star.

Losing her carol I stood pensively, 245
As one that from a casement leans his
head,
When midnight bells cease ringing sud-
denly,
And the old year is dead.

"Alas! alas!" a low voice, full of care,
Murmured beside me. "Turn and look
on me: 250
I am that Rosamond, whom men call fair,
If what I was I be.

"Would I had been some maiden coarse
and poor!
O me, that I should ever see the light!
Those dragon eyes of angered Eleanor 255
Do hunt me, day and night."

¹ undergrowth.

She ceased in tears, fallen from hope and
trust;
To whom the Egyptian: "Oh, you
tamely died!
You should have clung to Fulvia's waist,
and thrust
The dagger through her side." 260

With that sharp sound the white dawn's
creeping beams,
Stolen to my brain, dissolved the
mystery
Of folded sleep. The captain of my
dreams
Ruled in the eastern sky.

Morn broadened on the borders of the
dark 265
Ere I saw her who clasped in her last
trance
Her murdered father's head, or Joan of
Arc,
A light of ancient France;

Or her who knew that Love can vanquish
Death,
Who kneeling with one arm about her
king, 270
Drew forth the poison with her balmy
breath,
Sweet as new buds in Spring.

No memory labors longer from the deep
Gold-mines of thought to lift the hidden
ore
That glimpses, moving up, than I from
sleep 275
To gather and tell o'er

Each little sound and sight. With what
dull pain
Compassed, how eagerly I sought to
strike
Into that wondrous track of dreams
again!
But no two dreams are like. 280

As when a soul laments, which hath been
blest,
Desiring what is mingled with past
years,
In yearnings that can never be expressed
By signs or groans or tears;

Because all words, though culled with
choicest art, 285
Failing to give the bitter of the sweet,
Wither beneath the palate, and the heart
Faints, faded by its heat.

YOU ASK ME, WHY, THOUGH ILL AT EASE

You ask me, why, though ill at ease,
Within this region I subsist,
Whose spirits falter in the mist,
And languish for the purple seas.

It is the land that freemen till, 5
That sober-suited Freedom chose,
The land, where girt with friends or foes
A man may speak the thing he will;

A land of settled government,
A land of just and old renown, 10
Where Freedom slowly broadens down
From precedent to precedent;

Where faction seldom gathers head,
But, by degrees to fullness wrought,
The strength of some diffusive thought 15
Hath time and space to work and spread.

Should banded unions persecute
Opinion, and induce a time
When single thought is civil crime,
And individual freedom mute, 20

Though power should make from land to
land
The name of Britain trebly great—
Though every channel of the State
Should fill and choke with golden sand—

Yet waft me from the harbor-mouth, 25
Wild wind! I seek a warmer sky,
And I will see before I die
The palms and temples of the South.

MORTE D'ARTHUR

So all day long the noise of battle rolled
Among the mountains by the winter sea;
Until King Arthur's table, man by man,
Had fallen in Lyonesse about their Lord,

King Arthur: then, because his wound
was deep, 5

The bold Sir Bedivere uplifted him,
Sir Bedivere, the last of all his knights,
And bore him to a chapel nigh the field,
A broken chancel with a broken cross,
That stood on a dark strait of barren land.
On one side lay the Ocean, and on one 11
Lay a great water, and the moon was full.

Then spake King Arthur to Sir Bedivere:

"The sequel of to-day unsolders all
The goodliest fellowship of famous knights
Whereof this world holds record. Such
a sleep 16

They sleep—the men I loved. I think
that we

Shall never more, at any future time,
Delight our souls with talk of knightly
deeds,

Walking about the gardens and the halls 20
Of Camelot, as in the days that were.

I perish by this people which I made,—
Though Merlin sware that I should come
again

To rule once more—but let what will be,
be; 24

I am so deeply smitten through the helm
That without help I cannot last till morn.
Thou therefore take my brand Excalibur,
Which was my pride; for thou remember-
est how

In those old days, one summer noon, an
arm

Rose up from out the bosom of the lake, 30
Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonder-
ful,

Holding the sword—and how I rowed
across

And took it, and have worn it, like a king;
And, wheresoever I am sung or told

In aftertime, this also shall be known. 35
But now delay not; take Excalibur,

And fling him far into the middle mere;¹
Watch what thou seest, and lightly² bring
me word."

To him replied the bold Sir Bedivere:
"It is not meet, Sir King, to leave thee
thus, 40

Aidless, alone, and smitten through the
helm.

A little thing may harm a wounded man.
Yet I thy hest will all perform at full,

¹ sea, lake.

² quickly.

Watch what I see, and lightly bring thee
word."

So saying, from the ruined shrine he
stepped 45

And in the moon athwart the place of
tombs,

Where lay the mighty bones of ancient
men,

Old knights, and over them the sea-wind
sang

Shrill, chill, with flakes of foam. He,
stepping down

By zigzag paths and juts of pointed rock, 50
Came on the shining levels of the lake.

There drew he forth the brand Ex-
calibur,

And o'er him, drawing it, the winter moon,
Brightening the skirts of a long cloud, ran
forth

And sparkled keen with frost against the
hilt: 55

For all the haft twinkled with diamond
sparks,

Myriads of topaz-lights, and jacinth work
Of subtlest jewellery. He gazed so long

That both his eyes were dazzled, as he
stood,

This way and that dividing the swift
mind, 60

In act to throw; but at the last it seemed
Better to leave Excalibur concealed

There in the many-knotted waterflags,
That whistled stiff and dry about the
marge.

So strode he back slow to the wounded
King. 65

Then spake King Arthur to Sir Bedivere:
"Hast thou performed my mission which I
gave?

What is it thou hast seen, or what hast
heard?"

And answer made the bold Sir Bedivere:
"I heard the ripple washing in the reeds, 70

And the wild water lapping on the crag."

To whom replied King Arthur, faint and
pale:

"Thou hast betrayed thy nature and thy
name,

Not rendering true answer, as beseemed
Thy fealty, nor like a noble knight; 75

For surer sign had followed, either hand,
Or voice, or else a motion of the mere.

This is a shameful thing for men to lie.
Yet now, I charge thee, quickly go again

As thou art lief¹ and dear, and do the thing
I bade thee, watch, and lightly bring me
word." 81

Then went Sir Bedivere the second time
Across the ridge, and paced beside the
mere,

Counting the dewy pebbles, fixed in
thought;

But when he saw the wonder of the hilt, 85
How curiously and strangely chased, he
smote

His palms together, and he cried aloud:

"And if indeed I cast the brand away,
Surely a precious thing, one worthy note,
Should thus be lost forever from the
earth, 90

Which might have pleased the eyes of
many men.

What good should follow this, if this were
done?

What harm, undone? deep harm to dis-
obey,

Seeing obedience is the bond of rule.

Were it well to obey then, if a king demand
An act unprofitable, against himself? 96

The King is sick, and knows not what he
does.

What record, or what relic of my lord
Should be to aftertime, but empty breath
And rumors of a doubt? but were this
kept, 100

Stored in some treasure-house of mighty
kings,

Some one might show it at a joust of
arms,

Saying, 'King Arthur's sword, Excalibur,
Wrought by the lonely maiden of the
Lake;

Nine years she wrought it, sitting in the
deeps 105

Upon the hidden bases of the hills.'

So might some old man speak in the after-
time

To all the people, winning reverence;

But now much honor and much fame were
lost."

So spake he, clouded with his own con-
ceit, 110

And hid Excalibur the second time,
And so strode back slow to the wounded
King.

Then spoke King Arthur, breathing
heavily:

¹ loved.

"What is it thou hast seen, or what hast
heard?"

And answer made the bold Sir Bedi-
vere: 115

"I heard the water lapping on the crag,
And the long ripple washing in the reeds."

To whom replied King Arthur, much in
wrath:

"Ah, miserable and unkind, untrue,
Unknightly, traitor-hearted! Woe is me!
Authority forgets a dying king, 121

Laid widowed of the power in his eye
That bowed the will. I see thee what thou
art,

For thou, the latest-left of all my knights,
In whom should meet the offices of all, 125
Thou wouldst betray me for the precious
hilt;

Either from lust of gold, or like a girl
Valuing the giddy pleasure of the eyes.

Yet, for a man may fail in duty twice,
And the third time may prosper, get thee
hence; 130

But, if thou spare to fling Excalibur,
I will arise and slay thee with my hands."

Then quickly rose Sir Bedivere, and ran,
And, leaping down the ridges lightly,
plunged

Among the bulrush-beds, and clutched the
sword, 135

And strongly wheeled and threw it. The
great brand

Made lightnings in the splendor of the
moon,

And flashing round and round, and whirled
in an arch,

Shot like a streamer of the northern morn,
Seen where the moving isles of winter
shock 140

By night, with noises of the northern sea.
So flashed and fell the brand Excalibur;

But ere he dipped the surface, rose an arm
Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,
And caught him by the hilt, and bran-
dished him 145

Three times, and drew him under in the
mere.

And lightly went the other to the king.

Then spoke King Arthur, drawing
thicker breath:

"Now see I by thine eyes that this is done.
Speak out; what is it thou hast heard, or
seen?" 150

And answer made the bold Sir Bedivere:

"Sir King, I closed mine eyelids, lest the
 gems
 Should blind my purpose, for I never saw,
 Nor shall see, here or elsewhere, till I die,
 Not though I live three lives of mortal
 men, 155
 So great a miracle as yonder hilt.
 Then with both hands I flung him, wheel-
 ing him;
 But when I looked again, behold an arm,
 Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonder-
 ful,
 That caught him by the hilt, and bran-
 dished him 160
 Three times, and drew him under in the
 mere."
 And answer made King Arthur, breath-
 ing hard:
 "My end draws nigh; 'tis time that I were
 gone.
 Make broad thy shoulders to receive my
 weight,
 And bear me to the margin; yet I fear 165
 My wound hath taken cold, and I shall
 die."
 So saying, from the pavement he half
 rose,
 Slowly, with pain, reclining on his arm,
 And looking wistfully with wide blue eyes
 As in a picture. Him Sir Bedivere 170
 Remorsefully regarded through his tears,
 And would have spoken, but he found not
 words,
 Then took with care, and kneeling on one
 knee,
 O'er both his shoulders drew the languid
 hands,
 And rising bore him through the place of
 tombs. 175
 But, as he walked, King Arthur panted
 hard,
 Like one that feels a nightmare on his
 bed
 When all the house is mute. So sighed the
 king,
 Muttering and murmuring at his ear,
 "Quick, quick!
 I fear it is too late, and I shall die." 180
 But the other swiftly strode from ridge to
 ridge,
 Clothed with his breath, and looking, as he
 walked,
 Larger than human on the frozen hills.
 He heard the deep behind him, and a cry

Before. His own thought drove him, like
 a goad. 185
 Dry clashed his harness in the icy caves
 And barren chasms, and all to left and
 right
 The bare black cliff clanged round him, as
 he based
 His feet on juts of slippery crag that rang
 Sharp-smitten with the dint of armed
 heels— 190
 And on a sudden, lo! the level lake,
 And the long glories of the winter moon.
 Then saw they how there hove a dusky
 barge,
 Dark as a funeral scarf from stem to stern,
 Beneath them; and descending they were
 ware 195
 That all the decks were dense with stately
 forms
 Black-stoled, black-hooded, like a dream—
 by these
 Three Queens with crowns of gold—and
 from them rose
 A cry that shivered to the tingling stars,
 And, as it were one voice, an agony 200
 Of lamentation, like a wind that shrills
 All night in a waste land, where no one
 comes,
 Or hath come, since the making of the
 world.
 Then murmured Arthur, "Place me in
 the barge,"
 And to the barge they came. There those
 three Queens 205
 Put forth their hands, and took the King,
 and wept.
 But she that rose the tallest of them all
 And fairest, laid his head upon her lap,
 And loosed the shattered casque, and
 chafed his hands,
 And called him by his name, complaining
 loud, 210
 And dropping bitter tears against his
 brow
 Striped with dark blood; for all his face
 was white
 And colorless, and like the withered moon
 Smote by the fresh beam of the springing
 east;
 And all his greaves¹ and cuisses² dashed
 with drops 215
 Of onset; and the light and lustrous curls—
 That made his forehead like a rising sun

¹ leg guards.² thigh guards

High from the dais-throne—were parched
with dust;
Or, clotted into points and hanging loose,
Mixed with the knightly growth that
fringed his lips. 220
So like a shattered column lay the King;
Not like that Arthur who, with lance in
rest,
From spur to plume a star of tournament,
Shot through the lists at Camelot, and
charged
Before the eyes of ladies and of kings. 225
Then loudly cried the bold Sir Bedivere:
“Ah! my Lord Arthur, whither shall I go?
Where shall I hide my forehead and my
eyes?
For now I see the true old times are dead,
When every morning brought a noble
chance, 230
And every chance brought out a noble
knight.
Such times have been not since the light
that led
The holy Elders with the gift of myrrh.
But now the whole ROUND TABLE is dis-
solved
Which was an image of the mighty world;
And I, the last, go forth companionless, 236
And the days darken round me, and the
years,
Among new men, strange faces, other
minds.”
And slowly answered Arthur from the
barge:
“The old order changeth, yielding place
to new, 240
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the
world.
Comfort thyself: what comfort is in me?
I have lived my life, and that which I have
done
May He within Himself make pure! but
thou, 245
If thou shouldst never see my face again,
Pray for my soul. More things are wrought
by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore,
let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and
day.
For what are men better than sheep or
goats 250
That nourish a blind life within the brain,

If, knowing God, they lift not hands of
prayer
Both for themselves and those who call
them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of
God. 255
But now farewell. I am going a long way
With these thou seest—if indeed I go—
For all my mind is clouded with a doubt—
To the island-valley of Avilion;
Where falls not hail, or rain, or any snow,
Nor ever wind blows loudly, but it lies 261
Deep-meadowed, happy, fair with orchard-
lawns
And bowery hollows crowned with summer
sea,
Where I will heal me of my grievous
wound.”
So said he, and the barge with oar and
sail 265
Moved from the brink, like some full-
breasted swan
That, fluting a wild carol ere her death,
Ruffles her pure cold plume, and takes the
flood
With swarthy webs. Long stood Sir Bed-
ivere
Revolving many memories, till the hull
Looked one black dot against the verge of
dawn, 271
And on the mere the wailing died away.

ULYSSES

It little profits that an idle king,
By this still hearth, among these barren
crag,
Matched with an agèd wife, I mete and dole
Unequal laws unto a savage race,
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know
not me. 5
I cannot rest from travel; I will drink
Life to the lees. All times I have enjoyed
Greatly, have suffered greatly, both with
those
That loved me, and alone; on shore, and
when
Through scudding drifts the rainy Hyades
Vexed the dim sea. I am become a name;
For always roaming with a hungry heart 12
Much have I seen and known,—cities of
men,

And manners, climates, councils, govern-
ments,

Myself not least, but honored of them
all,— 15

And drunk delight of battle with my peers,
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.
I am a part of all that I have met;

Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
Gleams that untravelled world, whose
margin fades 20

Forever and forever when I move.

How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use!
As though to breathe were life! Life piled
on life

Were all too little, and of one to me 25
Little remains: but every hour is saved

From that eternal silence, something more,
A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns to store and hoard
myself,

And this gray spirit yearning in desire 30
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human
thought.

This is my son, mine own Telemachus,
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle—

Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil 35
This labor, by slow prudence to make mild

A rugged people, and through soft degrees
Subdue them to the useful and the good.
Most blameless is he, centred in the sphere
Of common duties, decent not to fail 40

In offices of tenderness, and pay
Meet adoration to my household gods,
When I am gone. He works his work, I
mine.

There lies the port; the vessel puffs her
sail;

There gloom the dark broad seas. My
mariners, 45

Souls that have toiled, and wrought, and
thought with me,—

That ever with a frolic welcome took
The thunder and the sunshine, and op-
posed

Free hearts, free foreheads,—you and I are
old;

Old age hath yet his honor and his toil. 50
Death closes all; but something ere the end,

Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with
Gods.

The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks;

The long day wanes; the slow moon
climbs; the deep 55

Moans round with many voices. Come,
my friends,

'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose
holds

To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths 60
Of all the western stars, until I die.

It may be that the gulfs will wash us
down;

It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we
knew:

Though much is taken, much abides; and
though 65

We are not now that strength which in old
days

Moved earth and heaven; that which we
are, we are;

One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in
will

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

LOCKSLEY HALL

Comrades, leave me here a little, while as
yet 'tis early morn:

Leave me here, and when you want me,
sound upon the bugle-horn.

'Tis the place, and all around it, as of old,
the curlews call,

Dreary gleams about the moorland flying
over Locksley Hall;

Locksley Hall, that in the distance over-
looks the sandy tracts, 5

And the hollow ocean-ridges roaring into
cataracts.

Many a night from yonder ivied casement,
ere I went to rest,

Did I look on great Orion sloping slowly
to the West.

Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising
through the mellow shade,

Glitter like a swarm of fire-flies tangled in
a silver braid. 10

Here about the beach I wandered, nourish-
ing a youth sublime
With the fairy tales of science, and the
long result of time;

When the centuries behind me like a fruit-
ful land reposed;
When I clung to all the present for the
promise that it closed;

When I dipped into the future far as
human eye could see; ¹⁵
Saw the vision of the world, and all the
wonder that would be.—

In the spring a fuller crimson comes upon
the robin's breast;
In the spring the wanton lapwing gets him-
self another crest;

In the spring a livelier iris changes on the
burnished dove;
In the spring a young man's fancy lightly
turns to thoughts of love. ²⁰

Then her cheek was pale and thinner than
should be for one so young,
And her eyes on all my motions with a
mute observance hung.

And I said, "My cousin Amy, speak, and
speak the truth to me,
Trust me, cousin, all the current of my
being sets to thee."

On her pallid cheek and forehead came a
color and a light, ²⁵
As I have seen the rosy red flushing in the
northern night.

And she turned—her bosom shaken with
a sudden storm of sighs—
All the spirit deeply dawning in the dark
of hazel eyes—

Saying, "I have hid my feelings, fearing
they should do me wrong;"
Saying, "Dost thou love me, cousin?"
weeping, "I have loved thee long." ³⁰

Love took up the glass of Time, and turned
it in his glowing hands;
Every moment, lightly shaken, ran itself
in golden sands.

Love took up the harp of Life, and smote
on all the chords with might;
Smote the chord of Self, that, trembling,
passed in music out of sight.

Many a morning on the moorland did we
hear the copses ring, ³⁵
And her whisper thronged my pulses with
the fulness of the spring.

Many an evening by the waters did we
watch the stately ships,
And our spirits rushed together at the
touching of the lips.

O my cousin, shallow-hearted! O my Amy,
mine no more!
O the dreary, dreary moorland! O the
barren, barren shore! ⁴⁰

Falser than all fancy fathoms, falser than
all songs have sung,
Puppet to a father's threat, and servile to
a shrewish tongue!

Is it well to wish thee happy? having
known me—to decline
On a range of lower feelings and a nar-
rower heart than mine!

Yet it shall be; thou shalt lower to his
level day by day, ⁴⁵
What is fine within thee growing coarse
to sympathize with clay.

As the husband is, the wife is; thou art
mated with a clown,
And the grossness of his nature will have
weight to drag thee down.

He will hold thee, when his passion shall
have spent its novel force,
Something better than his dog, a little
dearer than his horse. ⁵⁰

What is this? his eyes are heavy; think not
they are glazed with wine.
Go to him, it is thy duty; kiss him, take
his hand in thine.

It may be my lord is weary, that his brain
is overwrought;
Soothe him with thy finer fancies, touch
him with thy lighter thought.

He will answer to the purpose, easy things
to understand— 55
Better thou wert dead before me, though
I slew thee with my hand!

Better thou and I were lying, hidden from
the heart's disgrace,
Rolled in one another's arms, and silent in
a last embrace.

Cursèd be the social wants that sin against
the strength of youth!
Cursèd be the social lies that warp us from
the living truth! 60

Cursèd be the sickly forms that err from
honest Nature's rule!
Cursèd be the gold that gilds the straitened
forehead of the fool!

Well—'tis well that I should bluster!—
hadst thou less unworthy proved—
Would to God—for I had loved thee more
than ever wife was loved.

Am I mad, that I should cherish that which
bears but bitter fruit? 65
I will pluck it from my bosom, though my
heart be at the root.

Never, though my mortal summers to such
length of years should come
As the many-wintered crow that leads the
clanging rookery home.

Where is comfort? in division of the records
of the mind?
Can I part her from herself, and love her,
as I knew her, kind? 70

I remember one that perished; sweetly
did she speak and move;
Such a one do I remember, whom to look
at was to love.

Can I think of her as dead, and love her
for the love she bore?
No—she never loved me truly; love is love
for evermore.

Comfort? comfort scorned of devils! this is
truth the poet sings, 75
That a sorrow's crown of sorrow is remem-
bering happier things.

Drug thy memories, lest thou learn it,
lest thy heart be put to proof,
In the dead unhappy night, and when the
rain is on the roof.

Like a dog, he hunts in dreams, and thou
art staring at the wall,
Where the dying night-lamp flickers, and
the shadows rise and fall. 80

Then a hand shall pass before thee, point-
ing to his drunken sleep,
To thy widowed marriage-pillows, to the
tears that thou wilt weep.

Thou shalt hear the "Never, never," whis-
pered by the phantom years,
And a song from out the distance in the
ringing of thine ears;

And an eye shall vex thee, looking ancient
kindness on thy pain. 85
Turn thee, turn thee on thy pillow; get
thee to thy rest again.

Nay, but Nature brings thee solace; for a
tender voice will cry.
'T is a purer life than thine, a lip to drain
thy trouble dry.

Baby lips will laugh me down; my latest
rival brings thee rest.
Baby fingers, waxen touches, press me
from the mother's breast. 90

Oh, the child too clothes the father with a
dearness not his due.
Half is thine and half is his; it will be
worthy of the two.

Oh, I see thee old and formal, fitted to thy
petty part,
With a little hoard of maxims preaching
down a daughter's heart.

"They were dangerous guides, the feelings
—she herself was not exempt— 95
Truly, she herself had suffered"—Perish
in thy self-contempt!

Overlive it—lower yet—be happy! where-
fore should I care?
I myself must mix with action, lest I wither
by despair.

What is that which I should turn to, light-
ing upon days like these?

Every door is barred with gold, and opens
but to golden keys. 100

Every gate is thronged with suitors, all the
markets overflow.

I have but an angry fancy; what is that
which I should do?

I had been content to perish, falling on the
foeman's ground,

When the ranks are rolled in vapor, and
the winds are laid with sound.

But the jingling of the guinea helps the
hurt that Honor feels, 105

And the nations do but murmur, snarling
at each other's heels.

Can I but relive in sadness? I will turn
that earlier page.

Hide me from my deep emotion, O thou
wondrous Mother-Age!

Make me feel the wild pulsation that I
felt before the strife,

When I heard my days before me, and the
tumult of my life; 110

Yearning for the large excitement that the
coming years would yield,

Eager-hearted as a boy when first he
leaves his father's field,

And at night along the dusky highway
near and nearer drawn,

Sees in heaven the light of London flaring
like a dreary dawn;

And his spirit leaps within him to be gone
before him then, 115

Underneath the light he looks at, in among
the throngs of men;

Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever
reaping something new;

That which they have done but earnest of
the things that they shall do.

For I dipped into the future, far as human
eye could see,

Saw the Vision of the world, and all the
wonder that would be; 120

Saw the heavens fill with commerce, ar-
gosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping
down with costly bales;

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and
there rained a ghastly dew

From the nation's airy navies grappling
in the central blue;

Far along the world-wide whisper of the
southwind rushing warm, 125

With the standards of the peoples plung-
ing through the thunder-storm;

Till the war-drum throbbed no longer,
and the battle-flags were furled

In the Parliament of man, the Federation
of the world.

There the common sense of most shall
hold a fretful realm in awe,

And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapped
in universal law. 130

So I triumphed ere my passion sweeping
through me left me dry,

Left me with the palsied heart, and left
me with the jaundiced eye;

Eye, to which all order festers, all things
here are out of joint.

Science moves, but slowly, slowly, creep-
ing on from point to point;

Slowly comes a hungry people, as a lion,
creeping nigher, 135

Glares at one that nods and winks behind a
slowly-dying fire.

Yet I doubt not through the ages one in-
creasing purpose runs,

And the thoughts of men are widened
with the process of the suns.

What is that to him that reaps not harvest
of his youthful joys,

Though the deep heart of existence beat
for ever like a boy's? 140

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers, and
I linger on the shore,

And the individual withers, and the world
is more and more.

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers, and
 he bears a laden breast,
 Full of sad experience, moving toward
 the stillness of his rest.

Hark, my merry comrades call me, sound-
 ing on the bugle-horn, 145
 They to whom my foolish passion were a
 target for their scorn.

Shall it not be scorn to me to harp on
 such a mouldered string?
 I am shamed through all my nature to
 have loved so slight a thing.

Weakness to be wroth with weakness!
 woman's pleasure, woman's pain—
 Nature made them blinder motions
 bounded in a shallower brain: 150

Woman is the lesser man, and all thy pas-
 sions, matched with mine,
 Are as moonlight unto sunlight and as
 water unto wine—

Here, at least, where nature sickens, noth-
 ing. Ah, for some retreat
 Deep in yonder shining Orient, where my
 life began to beat,

Where in wild Mahratta-battle fell my
 father evil-starred;— 155
 I was left a trampled orphan, and a self-
 ish uncle's ward.

Or to burst all links of habit—there to
 wander far away,
 On from island unto island at the gate-
 ways of the day.

Larger constellations burning, mellow
 moons and happy skies,
 Breadths of tropic shade and palms in
 cluster, knots of Paradise. 160

Never comes the trader, never floats an
 European flag,
 Slides the bird o'er lustrous woodland,
 swings the trailer from the crag;

Droops the heavy-blossomed bower, hangs
 the heavy-fruited tree—
 Summer isles of Eden lying in dark purple
 spheres of sea.

There methinks would be enjoyment more
 than in this march of mind, 165
 In the steamship, in the railway, in the
 thoughts that shake mankind.

There the passions cramped no longer shall
 have scope and breathing space;
 I will take some savage woman, she shall
 rear my dusky race.

Iron-jointed, supple-sinewed, they shall
 dive, and they shall run,
 Catch the wild goat by the hair, and hurl
 their lances in the sun; 170

Whistle back the parrot's call, and leap
 the rainbows of the brooks,
 Not with blinded eyesight poring over
 miserable books—

Fool, again the dream, the fancy! but I
know my words are wild,
 But I count the gray barbarian lower than
 the Christian child.

I, to herd with narrow foreheads, vacant of
 our glorious gains, 175
 Like a beast with lower pleasures, like a
 beast with lower pains!

Mated with a squalid savage—what to me
 were sun or clime!
 I the heir of all the ages, in the foremost
 files of time—

I that rather held it better men should
 perish one by one,
 Than that earth should stand at gaze like
 Joshua's moon in Ajalon! 180

Not in vain the distance beacons. For-
 ward, forward let us range,
 Let the great world spin for ever down
 the ringing grooves of change.

Through the shadow of the globe we sweep
 into the younger day;
 Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of
 Cathay.

Mother-Age,—for mine I knew not,—help
 me as when life begun; 185
 Rift the hills, and roll the waters, flash
 the lightnings, weigh the sun.

Oh, I see the crescent promise of my spirit
hath not set.

Ancient founts of inspiration well through
all my fancy yet.

Howsoever these things be, a long farewell
to Locksley Hall!

Now for me the woods may wither, now
for me the roof-tree fall. 190

Comes a vapor from the margin, blacken-
ing over heath and holt,
Cramming all the blast before it, in its
breast a thunderbolt.

Let it fall on Locksley Hall, with rain or
hail, or fire or snow;
For the mighty wind arises, roaring sea-
ward, and I go.

BREAK, BREAK, BREAK

Break, break, break,
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O well for the fisherman's boy, 5
That he shouts with his sister at play!
O well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill; 10
But O for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is
dead 15
Will never come back to me.

SONGS *from* THE PRINCESS

BUGLE SONG

The splendor falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story;
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes fly-
ing, 5
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dy-
ing, dying.

O, hark, O, hear! how thin and clear,
And thinner, clearer, farther going!
O, sweet and far from cliff and scar
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing! 10
Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying;
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying,
dying.

O love, they die in yon rich sky,
They faint on hill or field or river;
Our echoes roll from soul to soul, 15
And grow for ever and for ever.
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes fly-
ing,
And answer, echoes, answer, dying, dying,
dying.

TEARS, IDLE TEARS

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they
mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine
despair
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy autumn-fields,
And thinking of the days that are no
more. 5

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a
sail,
That brings our friends up from the under-
world,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the
verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no
more. 10

Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer
dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awakened birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering
square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no
more. 15

Dear as remembered kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy
feigned
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret:
O Death in Life, the days that are no
more! 20

HOME THEY BROUGHT HER WAR-
RIOR DEAD

Home they brought her warrior dead;
 She nor swooned nor uttered cry:
 All her maidens, watching, said,
 "She must weep or she will die."

Then they praised him, soft and low, 5
 Called him worthy to be loved,
 Truest friend and noblest foe;
 Yet she neither spoke nor moved.

Stole a maiden from her place,
 Lightly to the warrior stepped, 10
 Took the face-cloth from the face;
 Yet she neither moved nor wept.

Rose a nurse of ninety years,
 Set his child upon her knee—
 Like summer tempest came her tears— 15
 "Sweet my child, I live for thee."

IN MEMORIAM A. H. H.

OBIIT MDCCCXXXIII

Strong Son of God, immortal Love,
 Whom we, that have not seen thy
 face,
 By faith, and faith alone, embrace,
 Believing where we cannot prove;

Thine are these orbs of light and shade; 5
 Thou madest Life in man and brute;
 Thou madest Death; and lo, thy foot
 Is on the skull which thou hast made.

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust;
 Thou madest man, he knows not why, 10
 He thinks he was not made to die;
 And thou hast made him: thou art just.

Thou seemest human and divine,
 The highest, holiest manhood, thou.
 Our wills are ours, we know not how; 15
 Our wills are ours, to make them thine.

Our little systems have their day;
 They have their day and cease to be;
 They are but broken lights of thee,
 And thou, O Lord, art more than they. 20

We have but faith: we cannot know;
 For knowledge is of things we see;
 And yet we trust it comes from thee,
 A beam in darkness: let it grow.

Let knowledge grow from more to more, 25
 But more of reverence in us dwell;
 That mind and soul, according well,
 May make one music as before,

But vaster. We are fools and slight;
 We mock thee when we do not fear: 30
 But help thy foolish ones to bear;
 Help thy vain worlds to bear thy light.

Forgive what seemed my sin in me;
 What seemed my worth since I began;
 For merit lives from man to man, 35
 And not from man, O Lord, to thee.

Forgive my grief for one removed,
 Thy creature, whom I found so fair.
 I trust he lives in thee, and there
 I find him worthier to be loved. 40

Forgive these wild and wandering cries,
 Confusions of a wasted youth;
 Forgive them where they fail in
 truth,
 And in thy wisdom make me wise.

LXXXVI

Sweet after showers, ambrosial air,
 That rollest from the gorgeous gloom
 Of evening over brake and bloom
 And meadow, slowly breathing bare

The round of space, and rapt below 5
 Through all the dewy tasselled wood,
 And shadowing down the hornèd
 flood
 In ripples, fan my brows and blow

The fever from my cheek, and sigh
 The full new life that feeds thy breath 10
 Throughout my frame, till Doubt and
 Death,
 Ill brethren, let the fancy fly

From belt to belt of crimson seas
 On leagues of odor streaming far,
 To where in yonder orient star 15
 A hundred spirits whisper "Peace."

LXXXVIII

Wild bird, whose warble, liquid sweet,
 Rings Eden through the budded quicks,
 O tell me where the senses mix,
 O tell me where the passions meet,

Whence radiate: fierce extremes employ 5
 Thy spirits in the darkening leaf,
 And in the midmost heart of grief
 Thy passion clasps a secret joy;

And I—my harp would prelude woe—
 I cannot all command the strings; 10
 The glory of the sum of things
 Will flash along the chords and go.

CVI

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
 The flying cloud, the frosty light:
 The year is dying in the night;
 Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new, 5
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
 The year is going, let him go;
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
 For those that here we see no more; 10
 Ring out the feud of rich and poor;
 Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
 And ancient forms of party strife; 15
 Ring in the nobler modes of life,
 With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
 The faithless coldness of the times;
 Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
 But ring the fuller minstrel in. 20

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
 The civic slander and the spite;
 Ring in the love of truth and right,
 Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease; 25
 Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
 Ring out the thousand wars of old,
 Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
 The larger heart, the kindlier hand; 30
 Ring out the darkness of the land,
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.

CXV

Now fades the last long streak of snow,
 Now burgeons¹ every maze of quick
 About the flowering squares,² and thick
 By ashen roots the violets blow.

Now rings the woodland loud and long, 5
 The distance takes a lovelier hue,
 And drowned in yonder living blue
 The lark becomes a sightless song.

Now dance the lights on lawn and lea,
 The flocks are whiter down the vale, 10
 And milkier every milky sail
 On winding stream or distant sea;

Where now the seamew pipes, or dives
 In yonder greening gleam, and fly
 The happy birds, that change their sky 15
 To build and brood; that live their lives

From land to land; and in my breast
 Spring wakens too, and my regret
 Becomes an April violet,
 And buds and blossoms like the rest. 20

CXXVI

Love is and was my lord and king,
 And in his presence I attend
 To hear the tidings of my friend,
 Which every hour the couriers bring.

Love is and was my king and lord, 5
 And will be, though as yet I keep
 Within the court on earth, and sleep
 Encompassed by his faithful guard,

And hear at times a sentinel
 Who moves about from place to place, 10
 And whispers to the worlds of space,
 In the deep night, that all is well.

CXXXI

O living will that shalt endure
 When all that seems shall suffer shock,
 Rise in the spiritual rock,
 Flow through our deeds and make them
 pure,

¹ blossoms.² square fields enclosed by hedges.

That we may lift from out of dust 5
 A voice as unto him that hears,
 A cry above the conquered years
 To one that with us works, and trust,
 With faith that comes of self-control,
 The truths that never can be proved 10
 Until we close with all we loved,
 And all we flow from, soul in soul.

THE EAGLE

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
 Close to the sun in lonely lands,
 Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
 He watches from his mountain walls, 5
 And like a thunderbolt he falls.

From MAUD

XVIII

I have led her home, my love, my only
 friend.
 There is none like her, none.
 And never yet so warmly ran my blood
 And sweetly, on and on
 Calming itself to the long-wished-for end, 5
 Full to the banks, close on the promised
 good.

None like her, none.
 Just now the dry-tongued laurels' pattering
 talk
 Seemed her light foot along the garden
 walk,
 And shook my heart to think she comes
 once more; 10
 But even then I heard her close the door;
 The gates of Heaven are closed, and she
 is gone.

There is none like her, none,
 Nor will be when our summers have de-
 ceased.
 O, art thou sighing for Lebanon 15
 In the long breeze that streams to thy
 delicious East,
 Sighing for Lebanon,
 Dark cedar, though thy limbs have here
 increased,

Upon a pastoral slope as fair,
 And looking to the South, and fed 20
 With honeyed rain and delicate air,
 And haunted by the starry head
 Of her whose gentle will has changed my
 fate,
 And made my life a perfumed altar-
 flame,
 And over whom thy darkness must have
 spread 25
 With such delight as theirs of old, thy
 great
 Forefathers of the thornless garden, there
 Shadowing the snow-limbed Eve from
 whom she came?

Here will I lie, while these long branches
 sway,
 And you fair stars that crown a happy day
 Go in and out as if at merry play, 31
 Who am no more so all forlorn,
 As when it seemed far better to be born
 To labor and the mattock-hardened hand
 Than nursed at ease and brought to under-
 stand 35
 A sad astrology, the boundless plan
 That makes you tyrants in your iron skies,
 Innumerable, pitiless, passionless eyes,
 Cold fires, yet with power to burn and
 brand
 His nothingness into man. 40

But now shine on, and what care I,
 Who in this stormy gulf have found a pearl
 The countercharm of space and hollow sky,
 And do accept my madness, and would
 die
 To save from some slight shame one simple
 girl?— 45

Would die; for sullen-seeming Death may
 give
 More life to Love than is or ever was
 In our low world, where yet 'tis sweet to
 live.
 Let no one ask me how it came to pass;
 It seems that I am happy, that to me 50
 A livelier emerald twinkles in the grass,
 A purer sapphire melts into the sea.

Not die; but live a life of truest breath,
 And teach true life to fight with mortal
 wrongs.

O, why should Love, like men in drinking
songs, 55
Spice his fair banquet with the dust of
death?

Make answer, Maud my bliss,
Maud made my Maud by that long loving
kiss;
Life of my life, wilt thou not answer this?
"The dusky strand of Death inwoven here
With dear Love's tie, makes Love himself
more dear." 61

Is that enchanted moan only the swell
Of the long waves that roll in yonder bay?
And hark the clock within, the silver knell
Of twelve sweet hours that passed in bridal
white, 65
And died to live, long as my pulses play;
But now by this my love has closed her
sight,
And given false death her hand, and stolen
away
To dreamful wastes where footless fancies
dwell

Among the fragments of the golden day.
May nothing there her maiden grace af-
fright! 71
Dear heart, I feel with thee the drowsy
spell.

My bride to be, my evermore delight,
My own heart's heart, my ownest own,
farewell;

It is but for a little space I go, 75
And ye meanwhile far over moor and fell
Beat to the noiseless music of the night!
Has our whole earth gone nearer to the
glow

Of your soft splendors that you look so
bright?

I have climbed nearer out of lonely Hell.
Beat, happy stars, timing with things be-
low, 81

Beat with my heart more blest than heart
can tell,

Blest, but for some dark undercurrent woe
That seems to draw—but it shall not be
so;

Let all be well, be well. 85

XXII

Come into the garden, Maud,
For the black bat, night, has flown;
Come into the garden, Maud,
I am here at the gate alone;

And the woodbine spices are wafted
abroad, 5
And the musk of the rose is blown.

For a breeze of morning moves,
And the planet of love is on high,
Beginning to faint in the light that she
loves
On a bed of daffodil sky, 10
To faint in the light of the sun she loves,
To faint in his light, and to die.

All night have the roses heard
The flute, violin, bassoon;
All night has the casement jessamine
stirred 15
To the dancers dancing in tune;
Till a silence fell with the waking bird,
And a hush with the setting moon.

I said to the lily, "There is but one,
With whom she has heart to be gay. 20
When will the dancers leave her alone?
She is weary of dance and play."
Now half to the setting moon are gone,
And half to the rising day;
Low on the sand and loud on the stone 25
The last wheel echoes away.

I said to the rose, "The brief night goes
In babble and revel and wine.
O young lord-lover, what sighs are those,
For one that will never be thine? 30
But mine, but mine," so I swore to the
rose,
"For ever and ever, mine."

And the soul of the rose went into my
blood,
As the music clashed in the hall;
And long by the garden lake I stood, 35
For I heard your rivulet fall
From the lake to the meadow and on to
the wood,
Our wood, that is dearer than all;

From the meadow your walks have left
so sweet
That whenever a March-wind sighs 40
He sets the jewel-print of your feet
In violets blue as your eyes,
To the woody hollows in which we meet
And the valleys of Paradise.

The slender acacia would not shake 45
 One long milk-bloom on the tree;
 The white lake-blossom fell into the lake
 As the pimpernel dozed on the lea;
 But the rose was awake all night for your
 sake,

Knowing your promise to me; 50
 The lilies and roses were all awake,
 They sighed for the dawn and thee.

Queen rose of the rosebud garden of girls,
 Come hither, the dances are done,
 In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls, 55
 Queen lily and rose in one;
 Shine out, little head, sunning over with
 curls,
 To the flowers, and be their sun.

There has fallen a splendid tear
 From the passion-flower at the gate, 60
 She is coming, my dove, my dear;
 She is coming, my life, my fate.
 The red rose cries, "She is near, she is
 near;"
 And the white rose weeps, "She is late;"
 The larkspur listens, "I hear, I hear;" 65
 And the lily whispers, "I wait."

She is coming, my own, my sweet;
 Were it ever so airy a tread,
 My heart would hear her and beat,
 Were it earth in an earthy bed; 70
 My dust would hear her and beat,
 Had I lain for a century dead,
 Would start and tremble under her feet,
 And blossom in purple and red.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Half a league, half a league,
 Half a league onward,
 All in the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.
 "Forward, the Light Brigade!" 5
 Charge for the guns!" he said.
 Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
 Was there a man dismayed? 10
 Not though the soldier knew
 Some one had blundered.

Theirs not to make reply,
 Theirs not to reason why,
 Theirs but to do and die. 15
 Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
 Cannon to left of them,
 Cannon in front of them 20
 Volleyed and thundered;
 Stormed at with shot and shell,
 Boldly they rode and well,
 Into the jaws of Death,
 Into the mouth of Hell 25
 Rode the six hundred.

Flashed all their sabres bare,
 Flashed as they turned in air
 Sabring the gunners there,
 Charging an army, while 30
 All the world wondered:
 Plunged in the battery-smoke
 Right through the line they broke;
 Cossack and Russian
 Reeled from the sabre-stroke 35
 Shattered and sundered.
 Then they rode back, but not,
 Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
 Cannon to left of them, 40
 Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
 Stormed at with shot and shell,
 While horse and hero fell,
 They that had fought so well 45
 Came through the jaws of Death,
 Back from the mouth of Hell,
 All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade? 50
 O the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
 Honor the charge they made!
 Honor the Light Brigade,
 Noble six hundred! 55

NORTHERN FARMER

OLD STYLE

Wheer 'asta beän saw long and meä liggin'¹
 'ere aloän?
 Noörse? thourt nowt o' a noorse; whoy,
 Doctor's abeän an' agoän;
¹ lying.

Says that I moänt 'a naw moor aäle, but I
beänt a fool;
Git ma my aäle, fur I beänt a-gawin' to
breäk my rule.

Doctors, they knaws nowt, fur a says
what's nawways true;
Naw soort o' koind o' use to saäy the things
that a do.
I've 'ed my point o' aäle ivry noight sin' I
beän ere,
An' I've 'ed my quart ivry market-noight
for foorty year.

Parson's a beän loikewise, an' a sittin'
ere o' my bed.
"The Amoighty's a taäkin o' you to 'issén,¹
my friend," a said,
An' a tow'd ma my sins, an' 's toithe were
due, an' I gied it in hond;
I done moy duty boy 'um, as I 'a done boy
the lond.

Larn'd a ma' beä. I reckons I 'annot sa
mooch to larn.
But a cast oop, thot a did, 'bout Bessy
Marris's barne.²
Thaw a knaws I hallus voated wi' Squoire
an' choorch an' staäte,
An' i' the woost o' toimes I wur niver agin
the raäte.³

An' I hallus coom'd to's choorch afoor
moy Sally wur deäd,
An' 'eärd 'um a bummin' awaäy loike a
buzzard-clock⁴ ower my 'eäd,
An' I niver knaw'd whot a meän'd but I
thowt a 'ad summut to saäy,
An' I thowt a said whot a owt to 'a said,
an' I coom'd awaäy.

Bessy Marris's barne! tha knaws she laäid
it to meä.
Mowt a beän, mayhap, for she wur a bad
un, sheä.
'Siver,⁵ I kep 'um, I kep 'um, my lass, tha
mun understand;
I done moy duty boy 'um, as I 'a done boy
the lond.

But Parson a cooms an' a goäs, an' a says
it eäsy an' freeä:
"The Amoighty's a taäkin o' you to 'issén,
my friend," says 'eä.

¹ himself.
⁴ cockchafer.

² bairn, child.
⁶ howsoever.

³ tax.

I weänt saäy men be loiars, thaw summun
said it in 'aäste;
But 'e reaäds wonn sarmin a weeäk, an' I
'a stubb'd⁶ Thurnaby waäste.

D' ya moind the waäste, my lass? naw,
naw, tha was not born then;
Theer wur a boggle⁷ in it, I often 'eärd
'um mysén;
Moäst loike a butter-bump,⁸ fur I 'eärd
'um about an' about,
But I stubb'd 'um oop wi' the lot, an'
raäved⁹ an' rembled¹⁰ 'um out.

Keäper's it wur; fo' they fun 'um theer
a-laäid of 'is faäce
Down i' the woild 'enemies¹¹ äfoor I
coom'd to the plaäce.
Noäks or Thimbleby—toäner¹² 'ed shot
'um as deäd as a naäil.
Noäks wur 'ang'd for it oop at 'soize¹³—
but git ma my aäle.

Dubbut looök at the waäste; theer
warn't not feeäd for a cow;
Nowt at all but bracken an' fuzz,¹⁴ an'
looök at it now—
Warn't worth nowt a haäcre, an' now
theer's lots o' feeäd,
Fourscoor yows¹⁵ upon it, an' some on it
down i' seeäd.

Nobbut a bit on it's left, an' I meän'd to
'a stubb'd it at fall,
Done it ta-year¹⁶ I meän'd, an' runn'd
plow thruff it an' all,
If Godamoighty an' parson 'ud nobbut
let ma aloän,—
Meä, wi' haäte hoonderd haäcre o'
Squire's, an lond o' my oän.

Do Godamoighty know what a's doing a-
taäkin' o' meä?
I beänt wonn as saws 'ere a beän an yonder
a peä;
An' Squoire u'll be sa mad an' all—a' dear,
a' dear!
And I 'a managed for Squoire coom
Michaelmas thutty year.

⁶ cleared.

⁹ tore up.

¹¹ anemones.

¹³ the assizes.

¹⁵ ewes.

⁷ bogle, ghost.

⁸ bittern.

¹⁰ routed out.

¹² one or the other.

¹⁴ furze.

¹⁶ this year.

A mowt 'a taäen owd Joänes, as 'ant not a
'aäpoth¹ o' sense,
Or a mowt a' taäen young Robins—a
niver mended a fence;
But Godamoighty a moost taäke meä an'
taäke ma now,
Wi' aäf the cows to cauve an' Thurnaby
hoalms² to plow!

Looök 'ow quoloty smoiles when they seeäs
ma a passin' boy,
Says to thessén, naw doubt, "What a man
a beä sewerloy!"
Fur they knaws what I beän to Squoire
sin' fust a coom'd to the 'All;
I done moy duty by Squoire an' I done
moy duty boy hall.

Squoire's i' Lunnon, an' summun I reckons
'ull 'a to wroite,
For whoä's to howd the lond ater meä thot
muddles³ ma quoit;
Sartin-sewer I beä thot a weänt niver give
it to Joänes,
Naw, nor a moänt to Robins—a niver
rembles the stoäns.

But summun 'ull come ater meä mayhap
wi' 'is kittle o' steäm
Huzzin'⁴ an' maäzin'⁵ the blessed feälds
wi' the Divil's oän teäm.
Sin' I mun doy I mun doy, thaw loife
they says is sweet,
But sin' I mun doy I mun doy, for I
couldn abeär to see it.

What attä stannin' theer fur, an' doesn
bring ma the aäle?
Doctor's a 'toättler,⁶ lass, an a's hallus i'
the owd taäle;
I weänt breäk rules fur Doctor, a knaws
naw moor nor a floy;
Git ma my aäle, I tell tha, an' if I mun
doy I mun doy.

THE HIGHER PANTHEISM

The sun, the moon, the stars, the seas,
the hills and the plains—
Are not these, O Soul, the Vision of Him
who reigns?

¹ halfpennyworth.

⁴ buzzing.

² river-flats.

⁵ amazing.

³ perplexes.

⁶ a "tee-totaller."

Is not the Vision He, though He be not
that which He seems?
Dreams are true while they last, and do
we not live in dreams?

Earth, these solid stars, this weight of
body and limb,
Are they not sign and symbol of thy
division from Him?

Dark is the world to thee; thyself art
the reason why;
For is He not all but thou, that hast
power to feel "I am I"?

Glory about thee, without thee; and thou
fulfillest thy doom,
Making Him broken gleams, and a stifled
splendor and gloom.

Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and
Spirit with Spirit can meet—
Closer is He than breathing, and nearer
than hands and feet.

God is law, say the wise; O Soul, and let
us rejoice,
For if He thunder by law the thunder is
yet His voice.

Law is God, say some: no God at all, says
the fool;
For all we have power to see is a straight
staff bent in a pool;

And the ear of man cannot hear, and the
eye of man cannot see;
But if we could see and hear, this Vision—
were it not He?

FLOWER IN THE CRANNIED WALL

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my
hand,
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in
all,
I should know what God and man is.

THE REVENGE

A BALLAD OF THE FLEET

I

At Flores in the Azores Sir Richard Grenville lay,
 And a pinnacle, like a fluttered bird, came
 flying from far away:
 "Spanish ships of war at sea! we have
 sighted fifty-three!"
 Then swore Lord Thomas Howard: "'Fore
 God, I am no coward;
 But I cannot meet them here, for my ships
 are out of gear,
 And the half my men are sick. I must
 fly, but follow quick.
 We are six ships of the line; can we fight
 with fifty-three?"

II

Then spake Sir Richard Grenville: "I
 know you are no coward;
 You fly them for a moment to fight with
 them again.
 But I've ninety men and more that are
 lying sick ashore.
 I should count myself the coward if I left
 them, my Lord Howard,
 To these Inquisition dogs and the devil-
 doms of Spain."

III

So Lord Howard passed away with five
 ships of war that day,
 Till he melted like a cloud in the silent
 summer heaven;
 But Sir Richard bore in hand all his sick
 men from the land
 Very carefully and slow,
 Men of Bideford in Devon,
 And we laid them on the ballast down be-
 low:
 For we brought them all aboard,
 And they blessed him in their pain, that
 they were not left to Spain,
 To the thumb-screw and the stake, for the
 glory of the Lord.

IV

He had only a hundred seamen to work
 the ship and to fight,
 And he sailed away from Flores till the
 Spaniard came in sight,
 With his huge sea-castles heaving upon the
 weather bow.

"Shall we fight or shall we fly?
 Good Sir Richard, tell us now,
 For to fight is but to die!
 There'll be little of us left by the time
 this sun be set."
 And Sir Richard said again: "We be all
 good English men.
 Let us bang these dogs of Seville, the chil-
 dren of the devil,
 For I never turned my back upon Don or
 devil yet."

V

Sir Richard spoke and he laughed, and we
 roared a hurrah, and so
 The little *Revenge* ran on sheer into the
 heart of the foe,
 With her hundred fighters on deck, and
 her ninety sick below;
 For half of their fleet to the right and half
 to the left were seen,
 And the little *Revenge* ran on through the
 long sea-lane between.

VI

Thousands of their soldiers looked down
 from their decks and laughed,
 Thousands of their seamen made mock at
 the mad little craft
 Running on and on, till delayed
 By their mountain-like *San Philip* that,
 of fifteen hundred tons,
 And up-shadowing high above us with her
 yawning tiers of guns,
 Took the breath from our sails, and we
 stayed.

VII

And while now the great *San Philip* hung
 above us like a cloud
 Whence the thunderbolt will fall
 Long and loud,
 Four galleons drew away
 From the Spanish fleet that day,
 And two upon the larboard and two upon
 the starboard lay,
 And the battle-thunder broke from them
 all.

VIII

But anon the great *San Philip*, she be-
 thought herself and went,
 Having that within her womb that had
 left her ill content;

And the rest they came aboard us, and
 they fought us hand to hand,
 For a dozen times they came with their
 pikes and musqueteers,
 And a dozen times we shook 'em off as a
 dog that shakes his ears 54
 When he leaps from the water to the land.

IX

And the sun went down, and the stars
 came out far over the summer sea,
 But never a moment ceased the fight of
 the one and the fifty-three.
 Ship after ship, the whole night long, their
 high-built galleons came,
 Ship after ship, the whole night long, with
 her battle-thunder and flame:
 Ship after ship, the whole night long, drew
 back with her dead and her shame. 60
 For some were sunk and many were shattered,
 and so could fight no more—
 God of battles, was ever a battle like this
 in the world before?

X

For he said, "Fight on! fight on!"
 Though his vessel was all but a wreck;
 And it chanced that, when half of the short
 summer night was gone, 65
 With a grisly wound to be dressed he had
 left the deck,
 But a bullet struck him that was dressing
 it suddenly dead,
 And himself he was wounded again in the
 side and the head,
 And he said, "Fight on! fight on!"

XI

And the night went down, and the sun
 smiled out far over the summer sea, 70
 And the Spanish fleet with broken sides
 lay round us all in a ring;
 But they dared not touch us again, for
 they feared that we still could sting,
 So they watched what the end would be.
 And we had not fought them in vain,
 But in perilous plight were we, 75
 Seeing forty of our poor hundred were
 slain,
 And half of the rest of us maimed for life
 In the crash of the cannonades and the
 desperate strife:
 And the sick men down in the hold were
 most of them stark and cold,

And the pikes were all broken or bent,
 and the powder was all of it spent; 80
 And the masts and the rigging were lying
 over the side;
 But Sir Richard cried in his English
 pride:

"We have fought such a fight for a day
 and a night

As may never be fought again!

We have won great glory, my men! 85

And a day less or more

At sea or ashore,

We die—does it matter when?

Sink me the ship, Master Gunner—sink
 her, split her in twain!

Fall into the hands of God, not into the
 hands of Spain!" 90

XII

And the gunner said, "Ay, ay," but the
 seamen made reply:

"We have children, we have wives,

And the Lord hath spared our lives.

We will make the Spaniard promise, if
 we yield, to let us go;

We shall live to fight again and to strike
 another blow." 95

And the lion there lay dying, and they
 yielded to the foe.

XIII

And the stately Spanish men to their
 flagship bore him then,

Where they laid him by the mast, old Sir
 Richard caught at last,

And they praised him to his face with
 their courtly foreign grace;

But he rose upon their decks, and he cried:
 "I have fought for Queen and Faith like a

valiant man and true; 101

I have only done my duty as a man is
 bound to do.

With a joyful spirit I Sir Richard Gren-
 ville die!"

And he fell upon their decks, and he died.

XIV

And they stared at the dead that had been
 so valiant and true, 105

And had holden the power and glory of
 Spain so cheap

That he dared her with one little ship and
 his English few;

Was he devil or man? He was devil for
 aught they knew,

But they sank his body with honor down
 into the deep,
 And they manned the *Revenge* with a
 swarthier alien crew, ¹¹⁰
 And away she sailed with her loss and
 longed for her own;
 When a wind from the lands they had
 ruined awoke from sleep,
 And the water began to heave and the
 weather to moan,
 And or ever that evening ended a great
 gale blew,
 And a wave like the wave, that is raised by
 an earthquake grew, ¹¹⁵
 Till it smote on their hulls and their sails
 and their masts and their flags,
 And the whole sea plunged and fell on
 the shot-shattered navy of Spain,
 And the little *Revenge* herself went down
 by the island crags
 To be lost evermore in the main.

RIZPAH

17—

I

Wailing, wailing, wailing, the wind over
 land and sea—
 And Willy's voice in the wind, "O mother,
 come out to me!"
 Why should he call me to-night, when he
 knows that I cannot go?
 For the downs are as bright as day, and
 the full moon stares at the snow.

II

We should be seen, my dear; they would
 spy us out of the town. ⁵
 The loud black nights for us, and the
 storm rushing over the down,
 When I cannot see my own hand, but am
 led by the creak of the chain,
 And grovel and grope for my son till I
 find myself drenched with the rain.

III

Anything fallen again? nay—what was
 there left to fall?
 I have taken them home, I have numbered
 the bones, I have hidden them all. ¹⁰
 What am I saying? and what are *you*? do
 you come as a spy?
 Falls? what falls? who knows? As the tree
 falls so must it lie.

IV

Who let her in? how long has she been?
 you—what have you heard?
 Why did you sit so quiet? you never have
 spoken a word.
 O—to pray with me—yes—a lady—none
 of their spies— ¹⁵
 But the night has crept into my heart,
 and begun to darken my eyes.

V

Ah—you, that have lived so soft, what
 should *you* know of the night,
 The blast and the burning shame and the
 bitter frost and the fright?
 I have done it, while you were asleep—
 you were only made for the day.
 I have gathered my baby together—and
 now you may go your way. ²⁰

VI

Nay—for it's kind of you, madam, to sit
 by an old dying wife.
 But say nothing hard of my boy, I have
 only an hour of life.
 I kissed my boy in the prison, before he
 went out to die.
 "They dared me to do it," he said, and he
 never has told me a lie.
 I whipped him for robbing an orchard once
 when he was but a child— ²⁵
 "The farmer dared me to do it," he said;
 he was always so wild—
 And idle—and couldn't be idle—my Willy
 —he never could rest.
 The King should have made him a soldier,
 he would have been one of his best.

VII

But he lived with a lot of wild mates, and
 they never would let him be good;
 They swore that he dare not rob the mail,
 and he swore that he would; ³⁰
 And he took no life, but he took one purse,
 and when all was done
 He flung it among his fellows—"I'll none
 of it," said my son.

VIII

I came into court to the judge and the
 lawyers. I told them my tale,
 God's own truth—but they killed him,
 they killed him for robbing the mail.

They hanged him in chains for a show—
 we had always borne a good name—³⁵
 To be hanged for a thief—and then put
 away—isn't that enough shame?
 Dust to dust—low down—let us hide! but
 they set him so high
 That all the ships of the world could stare
 at him, passing by.
 God 'ill pardon the hell-black raven and
 horrible fowls of the air,
 But not the black heart of the lawyer who
 killed him and hanged him there. ⁴⁰

IX

And the jailer forced me away. I had bid
 him my last good-bye;
 They had fastened the door of his cell.
 "O mother!" I heard him cry.
 I couldn't get back though I tried, he had
 something further to say,
 And now I never shall know it. The jailer
 forced me away.

X

Then since I couldn't but hear that cry of
 my boy that was dead, ⁴⁵
 They seized me and shut me up: they
 fastened me down on my bed.
 "Mother, O mother!"—he called in the
 dark to me year after year—
 They beat me for that, they beat me—
 you know that I couldn't but hear;
 And then at the last they found I had
 grown so stupid and still
 They let me abroad again—but the crea-
 tures had worked their will. ⁵⁰

XI

Flesh of my flesh was gone, but bone of my
 bone was left—
 I stole them all from the lawyers—and
 you, will you call it a theft?—
 My baby, the bones that had sucked me,
 the bones that had laughed and had
 cried—
 Theirs? O, no! they are mine—not theirs
 —they had moved in my side.

XII

Do you think I was scared by the bones? I
 kissed 'em, I buried 'em all— ⁵⁵
 I can't dig deep, I am old—in the night by
 the churchyard wall.

My Willy 'ill rise up whole when the
 trumpet of judgment 'ill sound,
 But I charge you never to say that I laid
 him in holy ground.

XIII

They would scratch him up—they would
 hang him again on the cursèd tree.
 Sin? O, yes, we are sinners, I know—let
 all that be, ⁶⁰
 And read me a Bible verse of the Lord's
 goodwill toward men—
 "Full of compassion and mercy, the
 Lord"—let me hear it again;
 "Full of compassion and mercy—long-
 suffering." Yes, O, yes!
 For the lawyer is born but to murder—
 the Savior lives but to bless.
He 'll never put on the black cap except
 for the worst of the worst, ⁶⁵
 And the first may be last—I have heard
 it in church—and the last may be first.
 Suffering—O, long-suffering—yes, as the
 Lord must know,
 Year after year in the mist and the wind
 and the shower and the snow.

XIV

Heard, have you? what? they have told
 you he never repented his sin.
 How do they know it? are *they* his mother?
 are *you* of his kin? ⁷⁰
 Heard! have you ever heard, when the
 storm on the downs began,
 The wind that 'ill wail like a child and the
 sea that 'ill moan like a man?

XV

Election, Election, and Reprobation—it's
 all very well.
 But I go to-night to my boy, and I shall
 not find him in hell.
 For I cared so much for my boy that the
 Lord has looked into my care, ⁷⁵
 And He means me I'm sure to be happy
 with Willy, I know not where.

XVI

And if *he* be lost—but to save *my* soul,
 that is all your desire—
 Do you think that I care for *my* soul if *my*
 boy be gone to the fire?

I have been with God in the dark—go, go,
 you may leave me alone—
 You never have borne a child—you are
 just as hard as a stone. 80

XVII

Madam, I beg your pardon! I think that
 you mean to be kind,
 But I cannot hear what you say for my
 Willy's voice in the wind—
 The snow and the sky so bright—he used
 but to call in the dark,
 And he calls to me now from the church
 and not from the gibbet—for hark!
 Nay—you can hear it yourself—it is
 coming—shaking the walls— 85
 Willy—the moon 's in a cloud—Good-
 night. I am going. He calls.

BY AN EVOLUTIONIST

The Lord let the house of a brute to the
 soul of a man,
 And the man said, "Am I your debtor?"
 And the Lord—"Not yet: but make it as
 clean as you can,
 And then I will let you a better."

I

If my body come from brutes, my soul
 uncertain or a fable, 5
 Why not bask amid the senses while
 the sun of morning shines,
 I, the finer brute rejoicing in my hounds,
 and in my stable,
 Youth and health, and birth and wealth,
 and choice of women and of wines?

II

What hast thou done for me, grim Old Age,
 save breaking my bones on the rack?
 Would I had passed in the morning that
 looks so bright from afar! 10

OLD AGE

Done for thee? starved the wild beast that
 was linked with thee eighty years back.
 Less weight now for the ladder of heaven
 that hangs on a star.

I

If my body come from brutes, though some-
 what finer than their own,
 I am heir, and this my kingdom. Shall
 the royal voice be mute?
 No, but if the rebel subject seek to drag
 me from the throne, 15
 Hold the sceptre, Human Soul, and rule
 thy province of the brute.

II

I have climbed to the snows of Age, and
 I gazed at a field in the Past,
 Where I sank with the body at times in
 the sloughs of a low desire,
 But I hear no yelp of the beast, and the
 Man is quiet at last
 As he stands on the heights of his life with
 a glimpse of a height that is higher. 20

MERLIN AND THE GLEAM

I

O young Mariner,
 You from the haven
 Under the sea-cliff,
 You that are watching
 The gray Magician 5
 With eyes of wonder,
 I am Merlin,
 And I am dying,
 I am Merlin
 Who follow The Gleam. 10

II

Mighty the Wizard
 Who found me at sunrise
 Sleeping, and woke me
 And learned me Magic!
 Great the Master, 15
 And sweet the Magic,
 When over the valley,
 In early summers,
 Over the mountain,
 On human faces, 20
 And all around me,
 Moving to melody,
 Floated The Gleam.

III

Once at the croak of a Raven who
 crossed it,
 A barbarous people, 25
 Blind to the magic,

And deaf to the melody,
 Snarled at and cursed me.
 A demon vexed me,
 The light retreated,
 The landskip¹ darkened,
 The melody deadened,
 The Master whispered
 "Follow The Gleam."

30

IV

Then to the melody,
 Over a wilderness
 Gliding, and glancing at
 Elf of the woodland,
 Gnome of the cavern,
 Griffin and Giant,
 And dancing of Fairies
 In desolate hollows,
 And wraiths of the mountain,
 And rolling of dragons
 By warble of water,
 Or cataract music
 Of falling torrents,
 Flitted The Gleam.

35

40

45

V

Down from the mountain
 And over the level,
 And streaming and shining on
 Silent river,
 Silvery willow,
 Pasture and plowland,
 Horses and oxen,
 Innocent maidens,
 Garrulous children,
 Homestead and harvest,
 Reaper and gleaner,
 And rough-ruddy faces
 Of lowly labor,
 Slided The Gleam.—

50

55

60

VI

Then, with a melody
 Stronger and statelier,
 Led me at length
 To the city and palace
 Of Arthur the king;
 Touched at the golden
 Cross of the churches,
 Flashed on the Tournament
 Flickered and bickered
 From helmet to helmet,

65

70

¹ landscape.

And last on the forehead
 Of Arthur the blameless
 Rested The Gleam.

75

VII

Clouds and darkness
 Closed upon Camelot;
 Arthur had vanished
 I knew not whither,
 The king who loved me,
 And cannot die;
 For out of the darkness
 Silent and slowly
 The Gleam, that had waned to a win-
 try glimmer
 On icy fallow
 And faded forest,
 Drew to the valley
 Named of the shadow,
 And slowly brightening
 Out of the glimmer,
 Yearningly tender,
 Fell on the shadow,
 No longer a shadow,
 But clothed with The Gleam.

80

85

90

95

VIII

And broader and brighter
 The Gleam flying onward,
 Wed to the melody,
 Sang through the world;
 And slower and fainter,
 Old and weary,
 But eager to follow,
 I saw, whenever
 In passing it glanced upon
 Hamlet or city,
 That under the Crosses
 The dead man's garden,
 The mortal hillock,
 Would break into blossom;
 And so to the land's
 Last limit I came—
 And can no longer,
 But die rejoicing;
 For through the Magic
 Of Him the Mighty,
 Who taught me in childhood,
 There on the border
 Of boundless Ocean,
 And all but in Heaven
 Hovers The Gleam.

100

105

110

115

120

IX

Not of the sunlight,
 Not of the moonlight,
 Not of the starlight!
 O young Mariner,
 Down to the haven, 125
 Call your companions,
 Launch your vessel,
 And crowd your canvas,
 And, ere it vanishes
 Over the margin, 130
 After it, follow it,
 Follow The Gleam.

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
 And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep, 5
 Too full for sound and foam,
 When that which drew from out the
 boundless deep
 Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark! 10
 And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time
 and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face 15
 When I have crossed the bar.

ROBERT BROWNING (1812-1889)

SONG *from* PIPPA PASSES

The year's at the spring
 And day's at the morn;
 Morning's at seven;
 The hillside's dew-pearled;
 The lark's on the wing;
 The snail's on the thorn;
 God's in his heaven—
 All's right with the world!

CAVALIER TUNES

I. MARCHING ALONG

Kentish Sir Byng stood for his King,
 Bidding the crop-headed Parliament swing:
 And, pressing¹ a troop unable to stoop
 And see the rogues flourish and honest folk
 droop,

Marched them along, fifty-score strong, 5
 Great-hearted gentlemen, singing this
 song.

God for King Charles! Pym and such
 carles²

To the Devil that prompts 'em their
 treasonous parles!³

Cavaliers, up! Lips from the cup,
 Hands from the pasty, nor bite take, nor
 sup, 10

Till you're—

CHORUS.—Marching along, fifty-score
 strong,

Great-hearted gentlemen, sing-
 ing this song!

Hampden to hell, and his obsequies' knell
 Serve Hazelrig, Fiennes, and young Harry,
 as well!

England, good cheer! Rupert is near! 15
 Kentish and loyalists, keep we not here.

CHO.—Marching along, fifty-score
 strong,

Great-hearted gentlemen, singing
 this song?

Then, God for King Charles! Pym and
 his snarls

To the Devil that pricks on such pestilent
 carles! 20

Hold by the right, you double your might:
 So, onward to Nottingham, fresh for the
 fight,

CHO.—March we along, fifty-score
 strong,

Great-hearted gentlemen, singing
 this song!

II. GIVE A ROUSE

King Charles, and who 'll do him right
 now?

King Charles, and who 's ripe for fight
 now?

Give a rouse; here's, in hell's despite now.
 King Charles!

¹ pressing into service.

² churls, knaves.

³ parleyings, debates.

Who gave me the goods that went since? 5
 Who raised me the house that sank once?
 Who helped me to gold I spent since?
 Who found me in¹ wine you drank once?

CHO.—King Charles, and who'll do him
 right now?

King Charles, and who's ripe for
 fight now? 10

Give a rouse: here's, in hell's de-
 spite now,

King Charles!

To whom used my boy George quaff else,
 By the old fool's side that begot him?
 For whom did he cheer and laugh else, 15
 While Noll's² damned troopers shot him?

CHO.—King Charles, and who'll do him
 right now?

King Charles, and who's ripe for
 fight now?

Give a rouse: here's, in hell's de-
 spite now,

King Charles! 20

III. BOOT AND SADDLE

Boot, saddle, to horse and away!
 Rescue my castle before the hot day
 Brightens to blue from its silvery gray.

CHO.—Boot, saddle, to horse and away!

Ride past the suburbs, asleep as you'd say;
 Many's the friend there, will listen and
 pray 6

"God's luck to gallants that strike up the
 lay—

CHO.—Boot, saddle, to horse, and
 away!"

Forty miles off, like a roebuck at bay,
 Flouts Castle Brancepeth the Roundheads'
 array: 10

Who laughs, "Good fellows ere this, by
 my fay,

CHO.—Boot, saddle, to horse, and
 away!"

Who? My wife Gertrude; that, honest
 and gay,
 Laughs when you talk of surrendering,
 "Nay!

I've better counsellors; what counsel they?

CHO.—Boot, saddle, to horse, and
 away!" 16

¹ supplied me with.

² Oliver Cromwell's.

THE LOST LEADER

Just for a handful of silver he left us,
 Just for a riband to stick in his coat—
 Found the one gift of which fortune bereft
 us,

Lost all the others she lets us devote;
 They, with the gold to give, doled him out
 silver, 5

So much was theirs who so little allowed:
 How all our copper had gone for his serv-
 ice!

Rags—were they purple, his heart had
 been proud!

We that had loved him so, followed him,
 honored him,

Lived in his mild and magnificent eye, 10
 Learned his great language, caught his
 clear accents,

Made him our pattern to live and to die!
 Shakespeare was of us, Milton was for us,
 Burns, Shelley, were with us,—they
 watch from their graves!

He alone breaks from the van and the free-
 men, 15

—He alone sinks to the rear and the
 slaves!

We shall march prospering,—not through
 his presence;

Songs may inspirit us,—not from his lyre;
 Deeds will be done,—while he boasts his
 quiescence,

Still bidding crouch whom the rest bade
 aspire; 20

Blot out his name, then, record one lost
 soul more,

One task more declined, one more foot-
 path untrod,

One more devil's-triumph and sorrow for
 angels,

One wrong more to man, one more insult
 to God!

Life's night begins: let him never come
 back to us! 25

There would be doubt, hesitation and
 pain,

Forced praise on our part—the glimmer of
 twilight,

Never glad confident morning again!
 Best fight on well, for we taught him—

strike gallantly,
 Menace our heart ere we master his
 own; 30

Then let him receive the new knowledge
and wait us,
Pardoned in heaven, the first by the
throne!

HOW THEY BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS FROM GHENT TO AIX

I sprang to the stirrup, and Joris, and he;
I galloped, Dirck galloped, we galloped all
three;

"Good speed!" cried the watch, as the
gate-bolts undrew;

"Speed!" echoed the wall to us galloping
through;

Behind shut the postern, the lights sank
to rest, ⁵

And into the midnight we galloped abreast.

Not a word to each other; we kept the
great pace

Neck by neck, stride by stride, never
changing our place;

I turned in my saddle and made its
girths tight,

Then shortened each stirrup, and set the
pique¹ right, ¹⁰

Rebuckled the cheek-strap, chained slacker
the bit,

Nor galloped less steadily Roland a whit.

'Twas moonset at starting; but while
we drew near

Lokeren, the cocks crew and twilight
dawned clear;

At Boom, a great yellow star came out
to see; ¹⁵

At Düffeld, 'twas morning as plain as
could be;

And from Mecheln church-steeple we
heard the half-chime,

So Joris broke silence with, "Yet there
is time!"

At Aershot, up leaped of a sudden the sun,
And against him the cattle stood black
every one, ²⁰

To stare through the mist at us gallop-
ing past,

And I saw my stout galloper Roland at
last,

¹ peak, pommel.

With resolute shoulders, each butting
away

The haze, as some bluff river headland its
spray:

And his low head and crest, just one sharp
ear bent back ²⁵

For my voice, and the other pricked out
on his track;

And one eye's black intelligence,—ever
that glance

O'er its white edge at me, his own master,
askance!

And the thick heavy spume-flakes which
aye and anon ²⁹

His fierce lipsshookupwards in galloping on.

By Hasselt, Dirck groaned; and cried
Joris, "Stay spur!

Your Roos galloped bravely, the fault's
not in her.

We'll remember at Aix"—for one heard
the quick wheeze

Of her chest, saw the stretched neck and
staggering knees,

And sunk tail, and horrible heave of the
flank, ³⁵

As down on her haunches she shuddered
and sank.

So, we were left galloping, Joris and I,
Past Looz and past Tongres, no cloud in
the sky;

The broad sun above laughed a pitiless
laugh,

'Neath our feet broke the brittle bright
stubble like chaff; ⁴⁰

Till over by Dalhem a dome-spire sprang
white,

And "Gallop," gasped Joris, "for Aix is in
sight!"

"How they'll greet us!"—and all in a
moment his roan

Rolled neck and croup over, lay dead as a
stone;

And there was my Roland to bear the
whole weight ⁴⁵

Of the news which alone could save Aix
from her fate,

With his nostrils like pits full of blood
to the brim,

And with circles of red for his eye-sockets'
rim.

Then I cast loose my buffcoat, each
holster let fall,
Shook off both my jack-boots, let go belt
and all, 50
Stood up in the stirrup, leaned, patted
his ear,
Called my Roland his pet-name, my
horse without peer;
Clapped my hands, laughed and sang,
any noise, bad or good,
Till at length into Aix Roland galloped
and stood.

And all I remember is—friends flocking
round 55
As I sat with his head 'twixt my knees on
the ground;
And no voice but was praising this Roland
of mine,
As I poured down his throat our last
measure of wine,
Which (the burgesses voted by common
consent)
Was no more than his due who brought
good news from Ghent. 60

MEETING AT NIGHT

The gray sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow, 5
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match, 10
And a voice less loud, through its joys
and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!

PARTING AT MORNING

Round the cape of a sudden came the sea,
And the sun looked over the mountain's
rim:
And straight was a path of gold for him,
And the need of a world of men for me.

SOLILOQUY OF THE SPANISH CLOISTER

Gr-r-r—there go, my heart's abhorrence!
Water your damned flower-pots, do!
If hate killed men, Brother Lawrence,
God's blood, would not mine kill you!
What? your myrtle-bush wants trimming?
Oh, that rose has prior claims— 6
Needs its leaden vase filled brimming?
Hell dry you up with its flames!

At the meal we sit together:
Salve tibi! I must hear 10
Wise talk of the kind of weather,
Sort of season, time of year:
Not a plenteous cork-crop: scarcely
Dare we hope oak-galls, I doubt:
What's the Latin name for "parsley"? 15
What's the Greek name for Swine's
Snout?

Whew! We'll have our platter burnished,
Laid with care on our own shelf!
With a fire-new spoon we're furnished,
And a goblet for ourself, 20
Rinsed like something sacrificial
Ere 'tis fit to touch our chaps—
Marked with L for our initial!
(He-he! There his lily snaps!)

Saint, forsooth! While brown Dolores 25
Squats outside the Convent bank
With Sanchicha, telling stories,
Steeping tresses in the tank,
Blue-black, lustrous, thick like horse-hairs,
—Can't I see his dead eye glow, 30
Bright as 'twere a Barbary corsair's?
(That is, if he'd let it show!)

When he finishes refection,
Knife and fork he never lays
Cross-wise, to my recollection, 35
As do I, in Jesu's praise.
I the Trinity illustrate,
Drinking watered orange-pulp—
In three sips the Arian frustrate;
While he drains his at one gulp. 40

Oh, those melons! If he's able
We're to have a feast! so nice!
One goes to the Abbot's table,
All of us get each a slice.

How go on your flowers? None double? 45
 Not one fruit-sort can you spy?
 Strange!—And I, too, at such trouble
 Keep them close-nipped on the sly!

There's a great text in Galatians,
 Once you trip on it, entails 50
 Twenty-nine distinct damnations,
 One sure, if another fails:
 If I trip him just a-dying,
 Sure of heaven as sure can be,
 Spin him round and send him flying 55
 Off to hell, a Manichee!

Or, my scrofulous French novel
 On gray paper with blunt type!
 Simply glance at it, you grovel
 Hand and foot in Belial's gripe: 60
 If I double down its pages
 At the woeful sixteenth print,
 When he gathers his greengages,
 Ope a sieve and slip it in't?

Or, there's Satan! one might venture 65
 Pledge one's soul to him, yet leave
 Such a flaw in the indenture
 As he'd miss till, past retrieve,
 Blasted lay that rose-acacia
 We're so proud of! *Hy, Zy, Hine . . .* 70
 'St, there's Vespers! *Plena gratiâ,*
Ave, Virgo! Gr-r-r—you swine!

HOME-THOUGHTS, FROM ABROAD

Oh, to be in England
 Now that April 's there,
 And whoever wakes in England
 Sees, some morning, unaware,
 That the lowest boughs and the brush-
 wood sheaf 5
 Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
 While the chaffinch sings on the orchard
 bough
 In England—now!

And after April, when May follows,
 And the whitethroat builds, and all the
 swallows! 10
 Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the
 hedge
 Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
 Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent
 spray's edge—

That's the wise thrush; he sings each song
 twice over,
 Lest you should think he never could re-
 capture 15
 The first fine careless rapture!
 And though the fields look rough with
 hoary dew,
 All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
 The buttercups, the little children's dower
 —Far brighter than this gaudy melon-
 flower! 20

HOME-THOUGHTS, FROM THE SEA

Nobly, nobly Cape Saint Vincent to the
 Northwest died away;
 Sunset ran, one glorious blood-red, reeking
 into Cadiz Bay;
 Bluish 'mid the burning water, full in face
 Trafalgar lay;
 In the dimmest Northeast distance dawned
 Gibraltar grand and gray;
 "Here and here did England help me: how
 can I help England?"—say, 5
 Whoso turns as I, this evening, turn to
 God to praise and pray,
 While Jove's planet rises yonder, silent
 over Africa.

SAUL

I

Said Abner, "At last thou art come! Ere
 I tell, ere thou speak,
 Kiss my cheek, wish me well!" Then I
 wished it, and did kiss his cheek.
 And he: "Since the King, O my friend, for
 thy countenance sent,
 Neither drunken nor eaten have we; nor
 until from his tent
 Thou return with the joyful assurance the
 King liveth yet, 5
 Shall our lip with the honey be bright, with
 the water be wet.
 For out of the black mid-tent's silence, a
 space of three days,
 Not a sound hath escaped to thy servants,
 of prayer nor of praise,
 To betoken that Saul and the Spirit have
 ended their strife,
 And that, faint in his triumph, the mon-
 arch sinks back upon life. 10

II

"Yet now my heart leaps, O beloved!
 God's child with his dew
 On thy gracious gold hair, and those lilies
 still living and blue
 Just broken to twine round thy harp-
 strings, as if no wild heat
 Were now raging to torture the desert!"

III

Then I, as was meet,
 Knelt down to the God of my fathers, and
 rose on my feet, 15
 And ran o'er the sand burnt to powder.
 The tent was unlooped;
 I pulled up the spear that obstructed, and
 under I stooped;
 Hands and knees on the slippery grass-
 patch, all withered and gone,
 That extends to the second enclosure, I
 groped my way on
 Till I felt where the foldskirts fly open.
 Then once more I prayed, 20
 And opened the foldskirts and entered,
 and was not afraid
 But spoke, "Here is David, thy servant!"
 And no voice replied.
 At the first I saw naught but the black-
 ness; but soon I descried
 A something more black than the black-
 ness—the vast, the upright
 Main prop which sustains the pavilion;
 and slow into sight 25
 Grew a figure against it, gigantic and
 blackest of all.
 Then a sunbeam, that burst through the
 tent roof, showed Saul.

IV

He stood as erect as that tent-prop, both
 arms stretched out wide
 On the great cross-support in the center,
 that goes to each side;
 He relaxed not a muscle, but hung there
 as, caught in his pangs 30
 And waiting his change, the king serpent
 all heavily hangs,
 Far away from his kind, in the pine, till de-
 liverance come
 With the spring-time,—so agonized Saul,
 drear and stark, blind and dumb.

V

Then I tuned my harp,—took off the lilies
 we twine round its chords
 Lest they snap 'neath the stress of the noon-
 tide—those sunbeams like swords! 35
 And I first played the tune all our sheep
 know, as, one after one,
 So docile they come to the pen-door till
 folding be done.
 They are white and untorn by the bushes,
 for lo, they have fed
 Where the long grasses stifle the water
 within the stream's bed;
 And now one after one seeks its lodging, as
 star follows star 40
 Into eve and the blue far above us,—so
 blue and so far!

VI

—Then the tune, for which quails on the
 cornland will each leave his mate
 To fly after the player; then, what makes
 the crickets elate
 Till for boldness they fight one another;
 and then, what has weight
 To set the quick jerboa a-musing outside
 his sand-house— 45
 There are none such as he for a wonder,
 half bird and half mouse!
 God made all the creatures and gave them
 our love and our fear,
 To give sign, we and they are his children,
 one family here.

VII

Then I played the help-tune of our reapers,
 their wine-song, when hand
 Grasps at hand, eye lights eye in good
 friendship, and great hearts expand 50
 And grow one in the sense of this world's
 life.—And then, the last song
 When the dead man is praised on his jour-
 ney—"Bear, bear him along
 With his few faults shut up like dead
 flowerets! Are balm-seeds not here
 To console us? The land has none left
 such as he on the bier. 54
 Oh, would we might keep thee, my
 brother!"—And then, the glad chaunt
 Of the marriage,—first go the young
 maidens, next, she whom we vaunt

As the beauty, the pride of our dwelling.
 —And then, the great march
 Wherein man runs to man to assist him
 and buttress an arch
 Naught can break; who shall harm them,
 our friends?—Then, the chorus in-
 toned
 As the Levites go up to the altar in glory
 enthroned. 60
 But I stopped here: for here in the dark-
 ness Saul groaned.

VIII

And I paused, held my breath in such
 silence, and listened apart;
 And the tent shook, for mighty Saul shud-
 dered: and sparkles 'gan dart
 From the jewels that woke in his turban,
 at once with a start,
 All its lordly male-sapphires, and rubies
 courageous at heart. 65
 So the head: but the body still moved not,
 still hung there erect.
 And I bent once again to my playing, pur-
 sued it unchecked,
 As I sang:—

IX

“Oh, our manhood's prime vigor! No
 spirit feels waste,
 Not a muscle is stopped in its playing nor
 sinew unbraced.
 Oh, the wild joys of living! the leaping
 from rock up to rock, 70
 The strong rending of boughs from the
 fir-tree, the cool silver shock
 Of the plunge in a pool's living water, the
 hunt of the bear,
 And the sultriness showing the lion is
 couched in his lair.
 And the meal, the rich dates yellowed over
 with gold dust divine,
 And the locust-flesh steeped in the pitcher,
 the full draft of wine, 75
 And the sleep in the dried river-channel
 where bulrushes tell
 That the water was wont to go warbling
 so softly and well.
 How good is man's life, the mere living!
 how fit to employ
 All the heart and the soul and the senses
 forever in joy!
 Hast thou loved the white locks of thy
 father, whose sword thou didst guard

When he trusted thee forth with the
 armies, for glorious reward? 81
 Didst thou see the thin hands of thy
 mother, held up as men sung
 The low song of the nearly-departed, and
 hear her faint tongue
 Joining in while it could to the witness,
 ‘Let one more attest
 I have lived, seen God's hand through a
 lifetime, and all was for best?’ 85
 Then they sung through their tears in
 strong triumph, not much, but the
 rest.

And thy brothers, the help and the con-
 test, the working whence grew
 Such result as, from seething grape-
 bundles, the spirit strained true:
 And the friends of thy boyhood—that boy-
 hood of wonder and hope,
 Present promise and wealth of the future
 beyond the eye's scope,— 90
 Till lo, thou art grown to a monarch; a
 people is thine;
 And all gifts, which the world offers singly,
 on one head combine!
 On one head, all the beauty and strength,
 love and rage (like the throe
 That, a-work in the rock, helps its labor
 and lets the gold go),
 High ambition and deeds which surpass it,
 fame crowning them,—all 95
 Brought to blaze on the head of one crea-
 ture—King Saul!”

X

And lo, with that leap of my spirit,—heart,
 hand, harp and voice,
 Each lifting Saul's name out of sorrow,
 each bidding rejoice
 Saul's fame in the light it was made for—
 as when, dare I say,
 The Lord's army, in rapture of service,
 strains through its array, 100
 And upsoareth the cherubim-chariot—
 “Saul!” cried I, and stopped,
 And waited the thing that should follow.
 Then Saul, who hung propped
 By the tent's cross-support in the center,
 was struck by his name.
 Have ye seen when Spring's arrowy sum-
 mons goes right to the aim,
 And some mountain, the last to withstand
 her, that held (he alone, 105

While the vale laughed in freedom and
 flowers) on a broad bust of stone
 A year's snow bound about for a breast-
 plate,—leaves grasp of the sheet?
 Fold on fold all at once it crowds thunder-
 ously down to his feet,
 And there fronts you, stark, black, but
 alive yet, your mountain of old,
 With his rents, the successive bequeath-
 ings of ages untold— 110
 Yea, each harm got in fighting your bat-
 tles, each furrow and scar
 Of his head thrust 'twixt you and the
 tempest—all hail, there they are!
 —Now again to be softened with verdure,
 again hold the nest
 Of the dove, tempt the goat and its young
 to the green on his crest
 For their food in the ardors of summer.
 One long shudder thrilled 115
 All the tent till the very air tingled, then
 sank and was stilled
 At the King's self left standing before me,
 released and aware.
 What was gone, what remained? All to
 traverse 'twixt hope and despair;
 Death was past, life not come: so he
 waited. Awhile his right hand
 Held the brow, helped the eyes left too
 vacant, forthwith to remand 120
 To their place what new objects should
 enter: 't was Saul as before.
 I looked up, and dared gaze at those eyes,
 nor was hurt any more
 Than by slow pallid sunsets in autumn, ye
 watch from the shore,
 At their sad level gaze o'er the ocean—a
 sun's slow decline
 Over hills which, resolved in stern silence,
 o'erlap and entwine 125
 Base with base to knit strength more in-
 tensely; so, arm folded arm
 O'er the chest whose slow heavings subsided.

XI

What spell or what charm,
 (For a while there was trouble within me,) what next should I urge
 To sustain him where song had restored
 him?—Song filled to the verge
 His cup with the wine of this life, press-
 ing all that it yields 130
 Of mere fruitage, the strength and the
 beauty: beyond, on what fields,

Glean a vintage more potent and perfect to
 brighten the eye
 And bring blood to the lip, and commend
 them the cup they put by?
 He saith, "It is good;" still he drinks not:
 he lets me praise life,
 Gives assent, yet would die for his own part.

XII

Then fancies grew rife 135
 Which had come long ago on the pasture,
 when round me the sheep
 Fed in silence—above, the one eagle
 wheeled slow as in sleep;
 And I lay in my hollow and mused on the
 world that might lie
 'Neath his ken, though I saw but the strip
 'twixt the hill and the sky:
 And I laughed—"Since my days are or-
 dained to be passed with my flocks, 140
 Let me people, at least with my fancies, the
 plains and the rocks,
 Dream the life I am never to mix with, and
 image the show
 Of mankind as they live in those fashions
 I hardly shall know!
 Schemes of life, its best rules and right
 uses, the courage that gains,
 And the prudence that keeps what men
 strive for." And now these old trains
 Of vague thought came again; I grew
 surer; so once more the string 146
 Of my harp made response to my spirit, as
 thus—

XIII

"Yea, my King,"
 I began—"thou dost well in rejecting
 mere comforts that spring
 From the mere mortal life held in common
 by man and by brute:
 In our flesh grows the branch of this life,
 in our soul it bears fruit. 150
 Thou hast marked the slow rise of the tree,
 —how its stem trembled first
 Till it passed the kid's lip, the stag's
 antler; then safely outburst
 The fan-branches all round; and thou
 mindest when these too, in turn
 Broke a-bloom and the palm-tree seemed
 perfect: yet more was to learn,
 E'en the good that comes in with the palm-
 fruit. Our dates shall we slight, 155
 When their juice brings a cure for all sor-
 row? or care for the plight

Of the palm's self whose slow growth
 produced them? Not so! stem and
 branch
 Shall decay, nor be known in their place,
 while the palm wine shall stanch
 Every wound of man's spirit in winter. I
 pour thee such wine.
 Leave the flesh to the fate it was fit for!
 the spirit be thine! 160
 By the spirit, when age shall o'ercome thee,
 thou still shalt enjoy
 More indeed, than at first when incon-
 scious, the life of a boy.
 Crush that life, and behold its wine run-
 ning! Each deed thou hast done
 Dies, revives, goes to work in the world;
 until e'en as the sun
 Looking down on the earth, though clouds
 spoil him, though tempests efface, 165
 Can find nothing his own deed produced
 not, must everywhere trace
 The results of his past summer-prime,—
 so, each ray of thy will,
 Every flash of thy passion and prowess, long
 over, shall thrill
 Thy whole people, the countless, with
 ardor, till they too give forth
 A like cheer to their sons; who in turn, fill
 the South and the North 170
 With the radiance thy deed was the germ
 of. Carouse in the past!
 But the license of age has its limit; thou
 diest at last:
 As the lion when age dims his eyeball, the
 rose at her height,
 So with man—so his power and his beauty
 for ever take flight.
 No! Again a long draft of my soul-wine!
 Look forth o'er the years! 175
 Thou hast done now with eyes for the ac-
 tual; begin with the seer's!
 Is Saul dead? In the depth of the vale
 make his tomb—bid arise
 A gray mountain of marble heaped four-
 square, till built to the skies,
 Let it mark where the great First King
 slumbers: whose fame would ye
 know?
 Up above see the rock's naked face, where
 the record shall go 180
 In great characters cut by the scribe,—
 Such was Saul, so he did;
 With the sages directing the work, by the
 populace chid,—

For not half, they'll affirm, is comprised
 there! Which fault to amend,
 In the grove with his kind grows the cedar,
 whereon they shall spend
 (See, in tablets 't is level before them) their
 praise, and record 185
 With the gold of the graver, Saul's story,
 —the statesman's great word
 Side by side with the poet's sweet com-
 ment. The river's a-wave
 With smooth paper-reeds grazing each
 other when prophet-winds rave:
 So the pen gives unborn generations their
 due and their part
 In thy being! Then, first of the mighty,
 thank God that thou art!" 190

xiv

And behold while I sang . . . but O Thou
 who didst grant me that day,
 And before it not seldom hast granted thy
 help to essay,
 Carry on, and complete an adventure,—
 my shield and my sword
 In that act where my soul was thy servant,
 thy word was my word,—
 Still be with me, who then at the summit
 of human endeavor 195
 And scaling the highest, man's thought
 could, gazed hopeless as ever
 On the new stretch of heaven above me—
 till, mighty to save,
 Just one lift of thy hand cleared that dis-
 tance—God's throne from man's
 grave!
 Let me tell out my tale to its ending—my
 voice to my heart
 Which can scarce dare believe in what mar-
 vels last night I took part, 200
 As this morning I gather the fragments,
 alone with my sheep,
 And still fear lest the terrible glory vanish
 like sleep!
 For I wake in the gray dewy covert, while
 Hebron upheaves
 The dawn struggling with night on his
 shoulder, and Kidron retrieves
 Slow the damage of yesterday's sun-
 shine. 205

xv

I say then,—my song
 While I sang thus, assuring the monarch,
 and, ever more strong,

Made a proffer of good to console him—
 he slowly resumed
 His old motions and habitudes kingly.
 The right hand replumed
 His black locks to their wonted composure,
 adjusted the swathes
 Of his turban, and see—the huge sweat
 that his countenance bathes, ²¹⁰
 He wipes off with the robe; and he girds
 now his loins as of yore,
 And feels slow for the armlets of price,
 with the clasp set before.
 He is Saul, ye remember in glory,—ere
 error had bent
 The brow from the daily communion; and
 still, though much spent
 Be the life and the bearing that front you,
 the same, God did choose, ²¹⁵
 To receive what a man may waste,
 desecrate, never quite lose.
 So sank he along by the tent-prop, till,
 stayed by the pile
 Of his armor and war-cloak and garments,
 he leaned there awhile,
 And sat out my singing,—one arm round
 the tent-prop, to raise
 His bent head, and the other hung slack—
 till I touched on the praise ²²⁰
 I foresaw from all men in all time, to the
 man patient there;
 And thus ended, the harp falling forward.
 Then first I was 'ware
 That he sat, as I say, with my head just
 above his vast knees
 Which were thrust out on each side around
 me, like oak roots which please
 To encircle a lamb when it slumbers. I
 looked up to know ²²⁵
 If the best I could do had brought solace:
 he spoke not, but slow
 Lifted up the hand slack at his side, till he
 laid it with care
 Soft and grave, but in mild settled will,
 on my brow: through my hair
 The large fingers were pushed, and he
 bent back my head, with kind power—
 All my face back, intent to peruse it, as
 men do a flower. ²³⁰
 Thus held he me there with his great eyes
 that scrutinized mine—
 And oh, all my heart how it loved him!
 but where was the sign?
 I yearned—"Could I help thee, my father,
 inventing a bliss,

I would add, to that life of the past, both
 the future and this;
 I would give thee new life altogether, as
 good, ages hence, ²³⁵
 As this moment,—had love but the war-
 rant love's heart to dispense!"

XVI

Then the truth came upon me. No harp
 more—no song more! outbroke—

XVII

"I have gone the whole round of creation:
 I saw and I spoke:
 I, a work of God's hand for that purpose,
 received in my brain
 And pronounced on the rest of his hand-
 work—returned him again ²⁴⁰
 His creation's approval or censure: I
 spoke as I saw,
 I report, as a man may of God's work—
 all's love, yet all's law.
 Now I lay down the judgeship he lent me.
 Each faculty tasked
 To perceive him has gained an abyss,
 where a dewdrop was asked.
 Have I knowledge? confounded it shrivels
 at Wisdom laid bare. ²⁴⁵
 Have I forethought? how purblind, how
 blank, to the Infinite Care!
 Do I task any faculty highest, to image
 success?
 I but open my eyes,—and perfection, no
 more and no less,
 In the king I imagined, full-fronts me,
 and God is seen God
 In the star, in the stone, in the flesh, in
 the soul and the clod. ²⁵⁰
 And thus looking within and around me,
 I ever renew
 (With that stoop of the soul which in bend-
 ing upraises it too)
 The submission of man's nothing-perfect
 to God's all-complete,
 As by each new obeisance in spirit, I climb
 to his feet.
 Yet with all this abounding experience,
 this deity known, ²⁵⁵
 I shall dare to discover some province,
 some gift of my own.
 There's a faculty pleasant to exercise, hard
 to hoodwink,

I am fain to keep still in abeyance (I laugh
as I think)
Lest, insisting to claim and parade in it,
wot ye, I worst
E'en the Giver in one gift.—Behold, I
could love if I durst! 260
But I sink the pretension as fearing a man
may o'ertake
God's own speed in the one way of love:
I abstain for love's sake.
—What, my soul? see thus far and no
farther? when doors great and small,
Nine-and-ninety flew ope at our touch,
should the hundredth appal?
In the least things have faith, yet distrust
in the greatest of all? 265
Do I find love so full in my nature, God's
ultimate gift,
That I doubt his own love can compete
with it? Here, the parts shift?
Here, the creature surpass the Creator,—
the end, what Began?
Would I fain in my impotent yearning
do all for this man,
And dare doubt he alone shall not help him,
who yet alone can? 270
Would it ever have entered my mind, the
bare will, much less power,
To bestow on this Saul what I sang of,
the marvelous dower
Of the life he was gifted and filled with?
to make such a soul,
Such a body, and then such an earth for
insphering the whole?
And doth it not enter my mind (as my
warm tears attest), 275
These things being given, to go on, and
give one more, the best?
Ay, to save and redeem and restore him,
maintain at the height
This perfection,—succeed with life's day-
spring, death's minute of night?
Interpose at the difficult minute, snatch
Saul the mistake,
Saul the failure, the ruin he seems now,
—and bid him awake 280
From the dream, the probation, the pre-
lude, to find himself set
Clear and safe in new light and new life,
—a new harmony yet
To be run and continued, and ended—
who knows?—or endure!
The man taught enough by life's dream, of
the rest to make sure;

By the pain-throb, triumphantly winning
intensified bliss, 285
And the next world's reward and repose,
by the struggles in this.

XVIII

"I believe it! 'Tis thou, God, that givest,
'tis I who receive:
In the first is the last, in thy will is my
power to believe.
All's one gift: thou canst grant it moreover,
as prompt to my prayer
As I breathe out this breath, as I open
these arms to the air. 290
From thy will, stream the worlds, life and
nature, thy dread Sabaoth:
I will?—the mere atoms despise me! Why
am I not loth
To look that, even that in the face too?
Why is it I dare
Think but lightly of such impuissance?
What stops my despair?
This;—'tis not what man Does which ex-
alts him, but what man Would do!
See the King—I would help him but can-
not, the wishes fall through. 296
Could I wrestle to raise him from sorrow,
grow poor to enrich,
To fill up his life, starve my own out, I
would—knowing which,
I know that my service is perfect. Oh,
speak through me now!
Would I suffer for him that I love? So
wouldst thou—so wilt thou! 300
So shall crown thee the topmost, ineffa-
blest, uttermost crown—
And thy love fill infinitude wholly, nor
leave up nor down
One spot for the creature to stand in! It
is by no breath,
Turn of eye, wave of hand, that salvation
joins issue with death!
As thy Love is discovered almighty, al-
mighty be proved 305
Thy power, that exists with and for it, of
being Beloved!
He who did most, shall bear most; the
strongest shall stand the most weak.
'Tis the weakness in strength, that I cry
for! my flesh, that I seek
In the Godhead! I seek and I find it. O
Saul, it shall be

A Face like my face that receives thee; a
 Man like to me, 310
 Thou shalt love and be loved by, for ever;
 a Hand like this hand
 Shall throw open the gates of new life to
 thee! See the Christ stand!"

XIX

I know not too well how I found my way
 home in the night.
 There were witnesses, cohorts about me, to
 left and to right,
 Angels, powers, the unuttered, unseen, the
 alive, the aware: 315
 I repressed, I got through them as hardly,
 as strugglingly there,
 As a runner beset by the populace fam-
 ished for news—
 Life or death. The whole earth was awak-
 ened, hell loosed with her crews;
 And the stars of night beat with emotion,
 and tingled and shot
 Out in fire the strong pain of pent knowl-
 edge: but I fainted not, 320
 For the Hand still impelled me at once and
 supported, suppressed
 All the tumult, and quenched it with quiet,
 and holy behest,
 Till the rapture was shut in itself, and the
 earth sank to rest.
 Anon at the dawn, all that trouble had
 withered from earth—
 Not so much, but I saw it die out in the
 day's tender birth; 325
 In the gathered intensity brought to the
 gray of the hills;
 In the shuddering forests' held breath; in
 the sudden wind-thrills;
 In the startled wild beasts that bore off,
 each with eye sidling still,
 Though averted with wonder and dread;
 in the birds stiff and chill
 That rose heavily as I approached them,
 made stupid with awe: 330
 E'en the serpent that slid away silent,—
 he felt the new law.
 The same stared in the white humid
 faces upturned by the flowers;
 The same worked in the heart of the cedar
 and moved the vine-bowers:
 And the little brooks witnessing mur-
 mured, persistent and low,
 With their obstinate, all but hushed voices
 —"E'en so, it is so!" 335

LOVE AMONG THE RUINS

Where the quiet-colored end of evening
 smiles
 Miles and miles
 On the solitary pastures where our sheep
 Half-asleep
 Tinkle homeward through the twilight,
 stray or stop 5
 As they crop—
 Was the site once of a city great and gay
 (So they say),
 Of our country's very capital, its prince
 Ages since 10
 Held his court in, gathered councils,
 wielding far
 Peace or war.

Now,—the country does not even boast a
 tree,
 As you see,
 To distinguish slopes of verdure, certain
 rills 15
 From the hills
 Intersect and give a name to (else they
 run
 Into one),
 Where the domed and daring palace shot
 its spires,
 Up like fires 20
 O'er the hundred-gated circuit of a wall
 Bounding all,
 Made of marble, men might march on nor
 be pressed,
 Twelve abreast.

And such plenty and perfection, see, of
 grass 25
 Never was!
 Such a carpet as, this summer-time,
 o'erspreads
 And embeds
 Every vestige of the city, guessed alone,
 Stock or stone— 30
 Where a multitude of men breathed joy
 and woe
 Long ago;
 Lust of glory pricked their hearts up,
 dread of shame
 Struck them tame;
 And that glory and that shame alike, the
 gold 35
 Bought and sold.

Now,—the single little turret that remains
 On the plains,
 By the caper overrooted, by the gourd
 Overscored, 40
 While the patching houseleek's head of
 blossom winks
 Through the chinks—
 Marks the basement whence a tower in
 ancient time
 Sprang sublime,
 And a burning ring, all round, the chariots
 traced 45
 As they raced,
 And the monarch and his minions and his
 dames
 Viewed the games.

And I know—while thus the quiet-
 colored eve
 Smiles to leave 50
 To their folding, all our many tinkling
 fleece
 In such peace,
 And the slopes and rills in undistinguished
 gray
 Melt away—
 That a girl with eager eyes and yellow
 hair 55
 Waits me there
 In the turret whence the charioteers
 caught soul
 For the goal,
 When the king looked, where she looks
 now, breathless, dumb
 Till I come. 60

But he looked upon the city, every side,
 Far and wide,
 All the mountains topped with temples,
 all the glades'
 Colonnades,
 All the causeys,¹ bridges, aqueducts,—and
 then, 65
 All the men!
 When I do come, she will speak not, she
 will stand,
 Either hand
 On my shoulder, give her eyes the first
 embrace
 Of my face, 70
 Ere we rush, ere we extinguish sight and
 speech
 Each on each.

¹ causeways.

In one year they sent a million fighters
 forth
 South and North,
 And they built their gods a brazen pillar
 high 75
 As the sky,
 Yet reserved a thousand chariots in full
 force—
 Gold, of course.
 Oh heart! oh blood that freezes, blood
 that burns!
 Earth's returns 80
 For whole centuries of folly, noise and
 sin!
 Shut them in,
 With their triumphs and their glories and
 the rest!
 Love is best.

MEMORABILIA

Ah, did you once see Shelley plain,
 And did he stop and speak to you,
 And did you speak to him again?
 How strange it seems and new!

But you were living before that, 5
 And also you are living after;
 And the memory I started at—
 My starting moves your laughter!

I crossed a moor, with a name of its own
 And a certain use in the world no
 doubt, 10
 Yet a hand's-breadth of it shines alone
 'Mid the blank miles round about:

For there I picked up on the heather
 And there I put inside my breast
 A moulted feather, an eagle-feather! 15
 Well, I forget the rest.

MY LAST DUCHESS

FERRARA

That's my last Duchess painted on the
 wall
 Looking as if she were alive. I call
 That piece a wonder, now: Frà Pandolf's
 hands
 Worked busily a day, and there she stands.

Will 't please you sit and look at her? I
 said 5
 "Frà Pandolf" by design, for never read
 Strangers like you that pictured coun-
 tenance,
 The depth and passion of its earnest
 glance,
 But to myself they turned (since none
 puts by
 The curtain I have drawn for you, but I) 10
 And seemed as they would ask me, if
 they durst,
 How such a glance came there; so, not
 the first
 Are you to turn and ask thus. Sir, 'twas
 not
 Her husband's presence only, called that
 spot
 Of joy into the Duchess' cheek: perhaps 15
 Frà Pandolf chanced to say, "Her mantle
 laps
 Over my lady's wrist too much," or "Paint
 Must never hope to reproduce the faint
 Half-flush that dies along her throat:"
 such stuff
 Was courtesy, she thought, and cause
 enough 20
 For calling up that spot of joy. She had
 A heart—how shall I say?—too soon made
 glad,
 Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
 She looked on, and her looks went every-
 where. 24
 Sir, 'twas all one! My favor at her breast,
 The dropping of the daylight in the
 West,
 The bough of cherries some officious fool
 Broke in the orchard for her, the white
 mule
 She rode with round the terrace—all
 and each
 Would draw from her alike the approving
 speech, 30
 Or blush, at least. She thanked men,—
 good! but thanked
 Somehow—I know not how—as if she
 ranked
 My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name
 With anybody's gift. Who'd stoop to
 blame
 This sort of trifling? Even had you
 skill 35
 In speech—(which I have not)—to make
 your will

Quite clear to such an one, and say, "Just
 this
 Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss,
 Or there exceed the mark"—and if she let
 Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set 40
 Her wits to yours, forsooth, and made ex-
 cuse,
 —E'en then would be some stooping; and
 I choose
 Never to stoop. Oh, sir, she smiled, no
 doubt,
 Whene'er I passed her; but who passed
 without
 Much the same smile? This grew; I gave
 commands; 45
 Then all smiles stopped together. There
 she stands
 As if alive. Will 't please you rise? We'll
 meet
 The company below then. I repeat,
 The Count your master's known munifi-
 cence
 Is ample warrant that no just pretence 50
 Of mine for dowry will be disallowed;
 Though his fair daughter's self, as I
 avowed
 At starting, is my object. Nay, we'll go
 Together down, sir. Notice Neptune,
 though,
 Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity, 55
 Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze
 for me!

IN A GONDOLA

He sings

I send my heart up to thee, all my heart
 In this my singing.
 For the stars help me, and the sea bears
 part;
 The very night is clinging
 Closer to Venice' streets to leave one
 space 5
 Above me, whence thy face
 May light my joyous heart to thee its
 dwelling place.

She speaks

Say after me, and try to say
 My very words, as if each word
 Came from you of your own accord, 10
 In your own voice, in your own way:

"This woman's heart and soul and brain
Are mine as much as this gold chain
She bids me wear; which" (say again)
"I choose to make by cherishing 15
A precious thing, or choose to fling
Over the boat-side, ring by ring."
And yet once more say . . . no word
more!

Since words are only words. Give o'er!

Unless you call me, all the same, 20
Familiarly by my pet name,
Which if the Three should hear you call,
And me reply to, would proclaim
At once our secret to them all.
Ask of me, too, command me, blame,— 25
Do, break down the partition-wall
'Twixt us, the daylight world beholds
Curtained in dusk and splendid folds!
What's left but—all of me to take?
I am the Three's: prevent them, slake 30
Your thirst! 'Tis said, the Arab sage,
In practising with gems, can loose
Their subtle spirit in his cruce¹
And leave but ashes: so, sweet mage,
Leave them my ashes when thy use 35
Sucks out my soul, thy heritage!

He sings

Past we glide, and past, and past!
What's that poor Agnese doing
Where they make the shutters fast?
Gray Zanobi's just a-wooing 40
To his couch the purchased bride:
Past we glide!

Past we glide, and past, and past!
Why's the Pucci Palace flaring
Like a beacon to the blast? 45
Guests by hundreds, not one caring
If the dear host's neck were wried:
Past we glide!

She sings

The moth's kiss, first!
Kiss me as if you made believe 50
You were not sure, this eve,
How my face, your flower, had pursed
Its petals up; so, here and there
You brush it, till I grow aware
Who wants me, and wide ope I burst. 55

¹ crucible.

The bee's kiss, now!
Kiss me as if you entered gay
My heart at some noonday,
A bud that dares not disallow
The claim, so all is rendered up, 60
And passively its shattered cup
Over your head to sleep I bow.

He sings

What are we two?
I am a Jew,
And carry thee, farther than friends can
pursue, 65
To a feast of our tribe;
Where they need thee to bribe
The devil that blasts them unless he im-
bibe
Thy . . . Scatter the vision forever! And
now, 70
As of old, I am I, thou art thou!

Say again, what we are?
The sprite of a star,
I lure thee above where the destinies bar
My plumes their full play
Till a ruddier ray 75
Than my pale one announce there is
withering away
Some . . . Scatter the vision forever! And
now,
As of old, I am I, thou art thou!

He muses

Oh, which were best, to roam or rest?
The land's lap or the water's breast? 80
To sleep on yellow millet-sheaves,
Or swim in lucid shallows just
Eluding water-lily leaves,
An inch from Death's black fingers,
thrust
To lock you, whom release he must; 85
Which life were best on summer eves?

He speaks, musing

Lie back; could thought of mine improve
you?
From this shoulder let there spring
A wing; from this, another wing;
Wings, not legs and feet, shall move you!
Snow-white must they spring, to blend 90
With your flesh, but I intend
They shall deepen to the end,

Broader, into burning gold,
Till both wings crescent-wise enfold 95
Your perfect self, from 'neath your feet
To o'er your head, where, lo, they meet
As if a million sword-blades hurled
Defiance from you to the world!

Rescue me thou, the only real! 100
And scare away this mad ideal
That came, nor motions to depart!
Thanks! Now, stay ever as thou art!

Still he muses

What if the Three should catch at last
Thy serenader? While there's cast 105
Paul's cloak about my head, and fast
Gian pinions me, Himself has passed
His stylet¹ through my back; I reel;
And . . . is it thou I feel?

They trail me, these three godless knaves,
Past every church that saints and saves,
Nor stop till, where the cold sea raves 112
By Lido's wet accursed graves,
They scoop mine, roll me to its brink,
And . . . on thy breast I sink! 115

She replies, musing

Dip your arm o'er the boat-side, elbow-
deep,
As I do: thus: were death so unlike sleep,
Caught this way? Death's to fear from
flame or steel,
Or poison doubtless; but from water—
feel!
Go find the bottom! Would you stay me?
There! 120
Now pluck a great blade of that ribbon-
grass
To plait in where the foolish jewel was,
I flung away: since you have praised my
hair,
'Tis proper to be choice in what I wear.

He speaks

Row home? must we row home? Too surely
Know I where its front's demurely 126
Over the Giudecca piled;
Window just with window mating,
Door on door exactly waiting,
All's the set face of a child: 130
But behind it, where's a trace

¹ stiletto.

Of the staidness and reserve,
And formal lines without a curve,
In the same child's playing-face?
No two windows look one way 135
O'er the small sea-water thread
Below them. Ah, the autumn day
I, passing, saw you overhead!
First, out a cloud of curtain blew,
Then a sweet cry, and last came you— 140
To catch your lory² that must needs
Escape just then, of all times then,
To peck a tall plant's fleecy seeds,
And make me happiest of men.
I scarce could breathe to see you reach 145
So far back o'er the balcony
To catch him ere he climbed too high
Above you in the Smyrna peach,
That quick the round smooth cord of
gold,
This coiled hair on your head, unrolled, 150
Fell down you like a gorgeous snake
The Roman girls were wont, of old,
When Rome there was, for coolness' sake
To let lie curling o'er their bosoms.
Dear lory, may his beak retain 155
Ever its delicate rose stain
As if the wounded lotus-blossoms
Had marked their thief to know again!

Stay longer yet, for others' sake
Than mine! What should your chamber do?
—With all its rarities that ache 161
In silence while day lasts, but wake
At night-time and their life renew,
Suspended just to pleasure you 164
Who brought against their will together
These objects, and, while day lasts, weave
Around them such a magic tether
That dumb they look: your harp, believe,
With all the sensitive tight strings
Which dare not speak, now to itself 170
Breathes slumberously, as if some elf
Went in and out the chords, his wings
Make murmur wheresoe'er they graze,
As an angel may, between the maze
Of midnight palace-pillars, on 175
And on, to sow God's plagues, have gone
Through guilty glorious Babylon.
And while such murmurs flow, the nymph
Bends o'er the harp-top from her shell
As the dry limpet for the lymph³ 180
Come with a tune he knows so well.
And how your statues' hearts must swell!

² parrot.

³ spring.

And how your pictures must descend
 To see each other, friend with friend!
 Oh, could you take them by surprise, 185
 You'd find Schidone's eager Duke
 Doing the quaintest courtesies
 To that prim saint by Haste-thee-Luke!
 And, deeper into her rock den,
 Bold Castelfranco's Magdalen 190
 You'd find retreated from the ken
 Of that robed counsel-keeping Ser¹—
 As if the Tizian thinks of her,
 And is not, rather, gravely bent
 On seeing for himself what toys 195
 Are these, his progeny invent,
 What litter now the board employs
 Whereon he signed a document
 That got him murdered! Each enjoys
 Its night so well, you cannot break 200
 The sport up, so, indeed must make
 More stay with me, for others' sake.

She speaks

To-morrow, if a harp-string, say,
 Is used to tie the jasmine back
 That overfloods my room with sweets, 205
 Contrive your Zorzi somehow meets
 My Zanze! If the ribbon's black,
 The Three are watching: keep away!

Your gondola—let Zorzi wreath
 A mesh of water-weeds about 210
 Its prow, as if he unaware
 Had struck some quay or bridge-foot stair!
 That I may throw a paper out
 As you and he go underneath.

There's Zanze's vigilant taper; safe are
 we. 215
 Only one minute more to-night with me?
 Resume your past self of a month ago!
 Be you the bashful gallant, I will be
 The lady with the colder breast than snow.
 Now bow you, as becomes, nor touch my
 hand 220
 More than I touch yours when I step to
 land,
 And say, "All thanks, Siora!"—

Heart to heart
 And lips to lips! Yet once more, ere we
 part,
 Clasp me and make me thine, as mine
 thou art! 224

[*He is surprised, and stabbed.*

¹ Sir.

He speaks

It was ordained to be so, sweet!—and
 best
 Comes now, beneath thine eyes, upon thy
 breast.
 Still kiss me! Care not for the cowards!
 Care
 Only to put aside thy beauteous hair
 My blood will hurt! The Three, I do not
 scorn
 To death, because they never lived:
 but I 230
 Have lived indeed, and so—(yet one more
 kiss)—can die!

A GRAMMARIAN'S FUNERAL

SHORTLY AFTER THE REVIVAL OF LEARN-
 ING IN EUROPE

Let us begin and carry up this corpse,
 Singing together.
 Leave we the common crofts,¹ the vulgar
 thorpes²
 Each in its tether
 Sleeping safe on the bosom of the plain, 5
 Cared-for till cock-crow:
 Look out if yonder be not day again
 Rimming the rock-row!
 That's the appropriate country; there,
 men's thought,
 Rarer, intenser, 10
 Self-gathered for an outbreak, as it ought,
 Chafes in the censer.
 Leave we the unlettered plain its herd and
 crop;
 Seek we sepulture
 On a tall mountain, citied to the top, 15
 Crowded with culture!
 All the peaks soar, but one the rest excels;
 Clouds overcome³ it;
 No! yonder sparkle is the citadel's
 Circling its summit. 20
 Thither our path lies; wind we up the
 heights;
 Wait ye the warning?
 Our low life was the level's and the night's;
 He's for the morning.
 Step to a tune, square chests, erect each
 head, 25
 'Ware the beholders!
 This is our master, famous, calm and dead,
 Borne on our shoulders.

¹ small farm enclosures.

² overshadow, conceal.

³ villages.

Sleep, crop and herd! sleep, darkling
 thorpe and croft,
 Safe from the weather! 30
 He, whom we convoy to his grave aloft,
 Singing together,
 He was a man born with thy face and
 throat,
 Lyric Apollo!
 Long he lived nameless: how should Spring
 take note 35
 Winter would follow?
 Till lo, the little touch, and youth was gone!
 Cramped and diminished,
 Moaned he, "New measures, other feet
 anon!
 My dance is finished?" 40
 No, that's the world's way: (keep the
 mountain-side,
 Make for the city!)
 He knew the signal, and stepped on with
 pride
 Over men's pity;
 Left play for work, and grappled with
 the world 45
 Bent on escaping:
 "What's in the scroll," quoth he, "thou
 keepest furled?
 Show me their shaping,
 Theirs who most studied man, the bard
 and sage,—
 Give!"—So, he gowned him, 50
 Straight got by heart that book to its
 last page:
 Learned, we found him.
 Yea, but we found him bald too, eyes
 like lead,
 Accents uncertain:
 "Time to taste life," another would have
 said, 55
 "Up with the curtain!"
 This man said rather, "Actual life comes
 next?
 Patience a moment!
 Grant I have mastered learning's crabbed
 text,
 Still there's the comment. 60
 Let me know all! Prate not of most or
 least,
 Painful or easy!
 Even to the crumbs I'd fain eat up the
 feast,
 Ay, nor feel queasy."
 Oh, such a life as he resolved to live, 65
 When he had learned it,

When he had gathered all books had to
 give!
 Sooner, he spurned it.
 Image the whole, then execute the parts—
 Fancy the fabric 70
 Quite, ere you build, ere steel strike fire
 from quartz,
 Ere mortar dab brick!
 (Here's the town-gate reached: there's the
 market-place
 Gaping before us.)
 Yea, this in him was the peculiar grace 75
 (Hearten our chorus!)
 That before living he'd learn how to
 live—
 No end to learning:
 Earn the means first—God surely will
 contrive
 Use for our earning. 80
 Others mistrust and say, "But time
 escapes:
 Live now or never!"
 He said, "What's time? Leave Now for
 dogs and apes!
 Man has Forever."
 Back to his book then: deeper drooped
 his head: 85
*Calculus*¹ racked him:
 Leaden before, his eyes grew dross of
 lead:
*Tussis*² attacked him.
 "Now, master, take a little rest!"—not
 he!
 (Caution redoubled, 90
 Step two abreast, the way winds nar-
 rowly!)
 Not a whit troubled,
 Back to his studies, fresher than at first,
 Fierce as a dragon
 He (soul-hydroptic³ with a sacred
 thirst) 95
 Sucked at the flagon.
 Oh, if we draw a circle premature,
 Heedless of far gain,
 Greedy for quick returns of profit, sure
 Bad is our bargain! 100
 Was it not great? did not he throw on
 God,
 (He loves the burthen)—
 God's task to make the heavenly period
 Perfect the earthen?

¹ gall stones.² a cough.³ thirsty, as in the disease of dropsy.

Did not he magnify the mind, show
clear 105
Just what it all meant?
He would not discount life, as fools do
here,
Paid by instalment.
He ventured neck or nothing—heaven's
success
Found, or earth's failure: 110
"Wilt thou trust death or not?" He
answered "Yes!"
Hence with life's pale lure!"
That low man seeks a little thing to do,
Sees it and does it:
This high man, with a great thing to pur-
sue, 115
Dies ere he knows it.
That low man goes on adding one to
one,
His hundred's soon hit:
This high man, aiming at a million,
Misses an unit. 120
That, has the world here—should he need
the next,
Let the world mind him!
This, throws himself on God, and un-
perplexed
Seeking shall find him.
So, with the throttling hands of death
at strife, 125
Ground he at grammar;
Still, through the rattle, parts of speech
were rife:
While he could stammer
He settled *Hoti's* business—let it be!—
Properly based *Oun*— 130
Gave us the doctrine of the enclitic *De*,
Dead! from the waist down.
Well, here's the platform, here's the proper
place:
Hail to your purlieus,²
All ye highfliers of the feathered race, 135
Swallows and curlews!
Here's the top-peak; the multitude below
Live, for they can, there:
This man decided not to Live but Know—
Bury this man there? 140
Here—here's his place, where meteors
shoot, clouds form,
Lightnings are loosened,
Stars come and go! Let joy break with
the storm,
Peace let the dew send!

¹ paralyzed.² haunts.

Lofty designs must close in like effects: 145
Loftily lying,
Leave him—still loftier than the world
suspects,
Living and dying.

THE BISHOP ORDERS HIS TOMB AT SAINT PRAXED'S CHURCH

ROME, 15—

Vanity, saith the preacher, vanity!
Draw round my bed: is Anselm keeping
back?
Nephews—sons mine . . . ah God, I know
not! Well—
She, men would have to be your mother
once,
Old Gandolf envied me, so fair she was! 5
What's done is done, and she is dead be-
side,
Dead long ago, and I am Bishop since,
And as she died so must we die ourselves,
And thence ye may perceive the world's
a dream.
Life, how and what is it? As here I lie 10
In this state-chamber, dying by degrees,
Hours and long hours in the dead night,
I ask
"Do I live, am I dead?" Peace, peace
seems all.
Saint Praxed's ever was the church for
peace;
And so, about this tomb of mine. I
fought 15
With tooth and nail to save my niche,
ye know:
—Old Gandolf cozened³ me, despite my
care;
Shrewd was that snatch from out the
corner South
He graced his carrion with, God curse the
same!
Yet still my niche is not so cramped but
thence 20
One sees the pulpit o' the epistle-side,
And somewhat of the choir, those silent
seats,
And up into the aëry dome where live
The angels, and a sunbeam's sure to lurk:
And I shall fill my slab of basalt there, 25
And 'neath my tabernacle take my rest,

³ cheated.

With those nine columns round me, two
and two,
The odd one at my feet where Anselm
stands:
Peach-blossom marble all, the rare, the
ripe 29
As fresh-poured red wine of a mighty pulse.
—Old Gandolf with his paltry onion-stone,
Put me where I may look at him! True
peach,
Rosy and flawless: how I earned the prize!
Draw close: that conflagration of my
church
—What then? So much was saved if
ought were missed! 35
My sons, ye would not be my death? Go
dig
The white-grape vineyard where the oil-
press stood,
Drop water gently till the surface sink,
And if ye find . . . Ah God, I know not,
I! . . .
Bedded in store of rotten fig-leaves soft, 40
And corded up in a tight olive-frail,¹
Some lump, ah God, of *lapis lazuli*,
Big as a Jew's head cut off at the nape,
Blue as a vein o'er the Madonna's
breast . . .
Sons, all have I bequeathed you, villas,
all, 45
That brave Frascati villa with its bath,
So, let the blue lump poise between my
knees,
Like God the Father's globe on both his
hands
Ye worship in the Jesu Church so gay,
For Gandolf shall not choose but see and
burst! 50
Swift as a weaver's shuttle fleet our years:
Man goeth to the grave, and where is he?
Did I say basalt for my slab, sons? Black—
'Twas ever antique-black I meant! How
else
Shall ye contrast my frieze to come be-
neath? 55
The bas-relief in bronze ye promised me,
Those Pans and Nymphs ye wot of, and
perchance
Some tripod, thyrsus, with a vase or so,
The Savior at his sermon on the mount,
Saint Praxed in a glory, and one Pan 60
Ready to twitch the Nymph's last gar-
ment off,

¹ basket woven of rushes.

And Moses with the tables . . . but I
know
Ye mark me not! What do they whisper
thee,
Child of my bowels, Anselm? Ah, ye hope
To revel down my villas while I gasp 65
Bricked o'er with beggar's mouldy travert-
ine²
Which Gandolf from his tomb-top chuck-
les at!
Nay, boys, ye love me—all of jasper, then!
'Tis jasper ye stand pledged to, lest I
grieve
My bath must needs be left behind, alas! 70
One block, pure green as a pistachio-nut,
There's plenty jasper somewhere in the
world—
And have I not Saint Praxed's ear to
pray
Horses for ye, and brown Greek manu-
scripts,
And mistresses with great smooth marbly
limbs? 75
—That's if ye carve my epitaph aright,
Choice Latin, picked phrase, Tully's every
word,
No gaudy ware like Gandolf's second
line—
Tully, my masters? Ulpian serves his
need!
And then how I shall lie through cen-
turies, 80
And hear the blessed mutter of the mass,
And see God made and eaten all day
long,
And feel the steady candle-flame, and
taste
Good, strong, thick, stupefying incense-
smoke!
For as I lie here, hours of the dead night, 85
Dying in state and by such slow degrees,
I fold my arms as if they clasped a crook,
And stretch my feet forth straight as
stone can point,
And let the bedclothes, for a mortcloth,³
drop
Into great laps and folds of sculptor's-
work: 90
And as yon tapers dwindle, and strange
thoughts
Grow, with a certain humming in my
ears,
About the life before I lived this life,

² a cheap limestone.³ pall.

And this life too, popes, cardinals and
 priests,
 Saint Praxed at his sermon on the mount,
 Your tall pale mother with her talking
 eyes, 96
 And new-found agate urns as fresh as day,
 And marble's language, Latin pure, dis-
 creet,
 —Aha, ELUCESCEBAT quoth our friend?
 No Tully, said I, Ulpian at the best! 100
 Evil and brief hath been my pilgrimage.
 All *lapis*, all, sons! Else I give the Pope
 My villas! Will ye ever eat my heart?
 Ever your eyes were as a lizard's quick,
 They glitter like your mother's for my
 soul, 105
 Or ye would heighten my impoverished
 frieze,
 Piece out its starved design, and fill my
 vase
 With grapes, and add a visor and a Term,
 And to the tripod ye would tie a lynx
 That in his struggle throws the thyrsus
 down, 110
 To comfort me on my entablature
 Whereon I am to lie till I must ask
 "Do I live, am I dead?" There, leave
 me, there!
 For ye have stabbed me with ingratitude
 To death—ye wish it—God, ye wish it!
 Stone— 115
 Gritstone, a-crumble! Clammy squares
 which sweat
 As if the corpse they keep were oozing
 through—
 And no more *lapis* to delight the world!
 Well, go! I bless ye. Fewer tapers there,
 But in a row: and, going, turn your backs
 —Ay, like departing altar-ministrants, 121
 And leave me in my church, the church
 for peace,
 That I may watch at leisure if he leers—
 Old Gandolf—at me, from his onion-
 stone,
 As still he envied me, so fair she was! 125

ANDREA DEL SARTO

CALLED "THE FAULTLESS PAINTER"

But do not let us quarrel any more,
 No, my Lucrezia; bear with me for once:
 Sit down and all shall happen as you wish.
 You turn your face, but does it bring your
 heart?

I'll work then for your friend's friend,
 never fear, 5
 Treat his own subject after his own way,
 Fix his own time, accept too, his own
 price,
 And shut the money into this small hand
 When next it takes mine. Will it? ten-
 derly?
 Oh, I'll content him,—but to-morrow,
 Love! 10
 I often am much wearier than you think,
 This evening more than usual, and it
 seems
 As if—forgive now—should you let me
 sit
 Here by the window with your hand in
 mine
 And look a half-hour forth on Fiesole, 15
 Both of one mind, as married people use,
 Quietly, quietly the evening through,
 I might get up to-morrow to my work
 Cheerful and fresh as ever. Let us try.
 To-morrow, how you shall be glad for
 this! 20
 Your soft hand is a woman of itself,
 And mine the man's bared breast she
 curls inside.
 Don't count the time lost, neither; you
 must serve
 For each of the five pictures we require:
 It saves a model. So! keep looking so— 25
 My serpentine beauty, rounds on rounds!
 —How could you ever prick those perfect
 ears,
 Even to put the pearl there! oh, so sweet—
 My face, my moon, my everybody's moon,
 Which everybody looks on and calls his, 30
 And, I suppose, is looked on by in turn,
 While she looks—no one's: very dear, no
 less.
 You smile? why, there's my picture ready
 made,
 There's what we painters call our harmony!
 A common grayness silvers everything,—
 All in a twilight, you and I alike 36
 —You, at the point of your first pride in
 me
 (That's gone you know),—but I, at every
 point;
 My youth, my hope, my art, being all
 toned down
 To yonder sober pleasant Fiesole. 40
 There's the bell clinking from the chapel-
 top;

That length of convent-wall across the
 way
 Holds the trees safer, huddled more in-
 side;
 The last monk leaves the garden; days
 decrease,
 And autumn grows, autumn in every-
 thing. 45
 Eh? the whole seems to fall into a shape
 As if I saw alike my work and self
 And all that I was born to be and do,
 A twilight-piece. Love, we are in God's
 hand.
 How strange now looks the life he makes
 us lead; 50
 So free we seem, so fettered fast we are!
 I feel he laid the fetter: let it lie!
 This chamber for example—turn your
 head—
 All that's behind us! You don't under-
 stand
 Nor care to understand about my art, 55
 But you can hear at least when people
 speak:
 And that cartoon, the second from the
 door
 —It is the thing, Love! so such thing
 should be—
 Behold Madonna!—I am bold to say.
 I can do with my pencil what I know, 60
 What I see, what at bottom of my heart
 I wish for, if I ever wish so deep—
 Do easily, too—when I say, perfectly,
 I do not boast, perhaps: yourself are judge,
 Who listened to the Legate's talk last
 week, 65
 And just as much they used to say in
 France.
 At any rate, 'tis easy, all of it!
 No sketches first, no studies, that's long
 past:
 I do what many dream of all their lives,
 —Dream? strive to do, and agonize to
 do, 70
 And fail in doing. I could count twenty
 such
 On twice your fingers, and not leave this
 town,
 Who strive—you don't know how the
 others strive
 To paint a little thing like that you smeared
 Carelessly passing with your robes afloat,—
 Yet do much less, so much less, Someone
 says, 76

(I know his name, no matter)—so much
 less!
 Well, less is more, Lucrezia: I am judged.
 There burns a truer light of God in them,
 In their vexed beating stuffed and stopped-
 up brain, 80
 Heart, or whate'er else, than goes on to
 prompt
 This low-pulsed forthright craftsman's
 hand of mine.
 Their works drop groundward, but them-
 selves, I know,
 Reach many a time a heaven that's shut
 to me,
 Enter and take their place there sure
 enough, 85
 Though they come back and cannot tell
 the world.
 My works are nearer heaven, but I sit
 here.
 The sudden blood of these men! at a
 word—
 Praise them, it boils, or blame them, it
 boils too.
 I, painting from myself, and to myself, 90
 Know what I do, am unmoved by men's
 blame
 Or their praise either. Somebody remarks
 Morello's outline there is wrongly traced,
 His hue mistaken; what of that? or else,
 Rightly traced and well ordered; what of
 that? 95
 Speak as they please, what does the moun-
 tain care?
 Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his
 grasp,
 Or what's a heaven for? All is silver-
 gray,
 Placid and perfect with my art: the
 worse!
 I know both what I want and what might
 gain, 100
 And yet how profitless to know, to sigh
 "Had I been two, another and myself,
 Our head would have o'erlooked the
 world!" No doubt.
 Yonder's a work now, of that famous youth
 The Urbinate who died five years ago. 105
 ('Tis copied, George Vasari sent it me.)
 Well, I can fancy how he did it all,
 Pouring his soul, with kings and popes
 to see,
 Reaching, that heaven might so replenish
 him,

Above and through his art—for it gives
 way; ¹¹⁰
 That arm is wrongly put—and there
 again—
 A fault to pardon in the drawing's lines,
 Its body, so to speak: its soul is right,
 He means right—that, a child may under-
 stand.
 Still, what an arm! and I could alter it: ¹¹⁵
 But all the play, the insight and the
 stretch—
 Out of me, out of me! And wherefore
 out?
 Had you enjoined them on me, given me
 soul,
 We might have risen to Rafael, I and you!
 Nay, Love, you did give all I asked, I
 think— ¹²⁰
 More than I merit, yes, by many times.
 But had you—oh, with the same perfect
 brow,
 And perfect eyes, and more than perfect
 mouth,
 And the low voice my soul hears, as a
 bird
 The fowler's pipe, and follows to the
 snare— ¹²⁵
 Had you, with these the same, but brought
 a mind!
 Some women do so. Had the mouth there
 urged
 "God and the glory! never care for gain.
 The present by the future, what is that?
 Live for fame, side by side with Agnolo! ¹³⁰
 Rafael is waiting: up to God, all three!"
 I might have done it for you. So it seems:
 Perhaps not. All is as God overrules.
 Beside, incentives come from the soul's
 self;
 The rest avail not. Why do I need
 you? ¹³⁵
 What wife had Rafael, or has Agnolo?
 In this world, who can do a thing, will
 not;
 And who would do it, cannot, I perceive:
 Yet the will's somewhat—somewhat, too,
 the power—
 And thus we half-men struggle. At the
 end, ¹⁴⁰
 God, I conclude, compensates, punishes.
 'Tis safer for me, if the award be strict,
 That I am something underrated here,
 Poor this long while, despised, to speak
 the truth.

I dared not, do you know, leave home all
 day, ¹⁴⁵
 For fear of chancing on the Paris lords.
 The best is when they pass and look aside;
 But they speak sometimes; I must bear it
 all.
 Well may they speak! That Francis, that
 first time,
 And that long festal year at Fontaine-
 bleau! ¹⁵⁰
 I surely then could sometimes leave the
 ground,
 Put on the glory, Rafael's daily wear,
 In that humane great monarch's golden
 look,—
 One finger in his beard or twisted curl
 Over his mouth's good mark that made
 the smile, ¹⁵⁵
 One arm about my shoulder, round my
 neck,
 The jingle of his gold chain in my ear,
 I painting proudly with his breath on me,
 All his court round him, seeing with his
 eyes,
 Such frank French eyes, and such a fire of
 souls ¹⁶⁰
 Profuse, my hand kept plying by those
 hearts,—
 And, best of all, this, this, this face be-
 yond,
 This in the background, waiting on my
 work,
 To crown the issue with a last reward! ¹⁶⁴
 A good time, was it not, my kingly days?
 And had you not grown restless . . .
 but I know—
 'Tis done and past; 'twas right, my in-
 stinct said;
 Too live the life grew, golden and not gray,
 And I'm the weak-eyed bat no sun should
 tempt
 Out of his grange whose four walls make
 his world. ¹⁷⁰
 How could it end in any other way?
 You called me, and I came home to your
 heart.
 The triumph was—to reach and stay
 there; since
 I reached it ere the triumph, what is
 lost?
 Let my hands frame your face in your
 hair's gold, ¹⁷⁵
 You beautiful Lucrezia that are mine!
 "Rafael did this, Andrea painted that;

The Roman's is the better when you pray,
But still the other's Virgin was his wife"—
Men will excuse me. I am glad to judge
Both pictures in your presence; clearer
grows 181

My better fortune, I resolve to think.
For, do you know, Lucrezia, as God lives,
Said one day Agnolo, his very self,
To Rafael . . . I have known it all these
years . . . 185
(When the young man was flaming out his
thoughts

Upon a palace-wall for Rome to see,
Too lifted up in heart because of it)
"Friend, there's a certain sorry little
scrub

Goes up and down our Florence, none
cares how, 190

Who, were he set to plan and execute
As you are, pricked on by your popes and
kings,

Would bring the sweat into that brow of
yours!"

To Rafael's!—And indeed the arm is
wrong.

I hardly dare . . . yet, only you to
see, 195

Give the chalk here—quick, thus the line
should go!

Ay, but the soul! he's Rafael! rub it out!
Still, all I care for, if he spoke the truth
(What he? why, who but Michel Agnolo?

Do you forget already words like
those?), 200

If really there was such a chance, so lost,—
Is, whether you're—not grateful—but
more pleased.

Well, let me think so. And you smile in-
deed!

This hour has been an hour! Another
smile?

If you would sit thus by me every night
I should work better, do you compre-
hend? 206

I mean that I should earn more, give you
more.

See, it is settled dusk now; there's a star;
Morello's gone, the watch-lights show the
wall,

The cue-owls speak the name we call
them by. 210

Come from the window, Love,—come in,
at last,

Inside the melancholy little house

We built to be so gay with. God is just.
King Francis may forgive me; oft at
nights,

When I look up from painting, eyes tired
out, 215

The walls become illumined, brick from
brick

Distinct, instead of mortar, fierce bright
gold,

That gold of his I did cement them with!
Let us but love each other. Must you
go?

That Cousin here again? he waits outside?
Must see you—you, and not with me?
Those loans? 221

More gaming debts to pay? you smiled
for that?

Well, let smiles buy me! have you more to
spend?

While hand and eye and something of a
heart

Are left me, work's my ware, and what's
it worth? 225

I'll pay my fancy. Only let me sit
The gray remainder of the evening out,
Idle, you call it, and muse perfectly
How I could paint, were I but back in
France,

One picture, just one more—the Virgin's
face, 230

Not yours this time! I want you at my
side

To hear them—that is, Michel Agnolo—
Judge all I do and tell you of its worth.
Will you? To-morrow, satisfy your friend.
I take the subjects for his corridor, 235

Finish the portrait out of hand—there,
there,

And throw him in another thing or two
If he demurs; the whole should prove
enough

To pay for this same Cousin's freak. Be-
side,

What's better and what's all I care about,
Get you the thirteen scudi for the ruff! 241
Love, does that please you? Ah, but what
does he,

The Cousin! what does he to please you
more?

I am grown peaceful as old age to-night.
I regret little, I would change still less. 245
Since there my past life lies, why alter it?
The very wrong to Francis!—it is true

I took his coin, was tempted and complied,
 And built this house and sinned, and all
 is said. 249
 My father and my mother died of want.
 Well, had I riches of my own? you see
 How one gets rich! Let each one bear his
 lot.
 They were born poor, lived poor, and poor
 they died:
 And I have labored somewhat in my time
 And not been paid profusely. Some good
 son 255
 Paint my two hundred pictures—let him
 try!
 No doubt, there's something strikes a
 balance. Yes,
 You loved me quite enough, it seems to-
 night.
 This must suffice me here. What would
 one have?
 In heaven, perhaps, new chances, one more
 chance— 260
 Four great walls in the New Jerusalem,
 Meted on each side by the angel's reed,
 For Leonard, Rafael, Agnolo and me
 To cover—the three first without a wife,
 While I have mine! So—still they over-
 come 265
 Because there's still Lucrezia,—as I
 choose.
 Again the Cousin's whistle! Go, my Love.

PROSPICE

Fear death? to feel the fog in my throat,
 The mist in my face,
 When the snows begin, and the blasts de-
 note
 I am nearing the place,
 The power of the night, the press of the
 storm, 5
 The post of the foe;
 Where he stands, the Arch Fear in a
 visible form,
 Yet the strong man must go:
 For the journey is done and the summit
 attained,
 And the barriers fall, 10
 Though a battle's to fight ere the guerdon
 be gained,
 The reward of it all.

I was ever a fighter, so—one fight more,
 The best and the last!
 I would hate that death bandaged my
 eyes, and forbore, 15
 And bade me creep past.
 No! let me taste the whole of it, fare like
 my peers
 The heroes of old,
 Bear the brunt, in a minute pay glad
 life's arrears
 Of pain, darkness and cold. 20
 For sudden the worst turns the best to
 the brave,
 The black minute's at end,
 And the elements' rage, the fiend-voices
 that rave,
 Shall dwindle, shall blend,
 Shall change, shall become first a peace
 out of pain, 25
 Then a light, then thy breast,
 O thou soul of my soul! I shall clasp thee
 again,
 And with God be the rest!

ABT VOGLER

AFTER HE HAS BEEN EXTEMPOREIZING
 UPON THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
 OF HIS INVENTION

Would that the structure brave, the man-
 ifold music I build,
 Bidding my organ obey, calling its keys
 to their work,
 Claiming each slave of the sound, at a
 touch, as when Solomon willed
 Armies of angels that soar, legions of
 demons that lurk,
 Man, brute, reptile, fly,—alien of end and
 of aim, 5
 Adverse, each from the other heaven-
 high, hell-deep removed,—
 Should rush into sight at once as he named
 the ineffable Name,
 And pile him a palace straight, to
 pleasure the princess he loved!
 Would it might tarry like his, the beautiful
 building of mine,
 This which my keys in a crowd pressed
 and importuned to raise! 10
 Ah, one and all, how they helped, would
 dispart now and now combine,

Zealous to hasten the work, heighten
 their master his praise!
 And one would bury his brow with a blind
 plunge down to hell,
 Burrow awhile and build, broad on
 the roots of things,
 Then up again swim into sight, having
 based me my palace well, ¹⁵
 Founded it, fearless of flame, flat on the
 nether springs.

And another would mount and march,
 like the excellent minion he was,
 Ay, another and yet another, one crowd
 but with many a crest,
 Raising my rampired¹ walls of gold as
 transparent as glass,
 Eager to do and die, yield each his place
 to the rest: ²⁰
 For higher still and higher (as a runner
 tips with fire,
 When a great illumination surprises a
 festal night—
 Outlining round and round Rome's dome
 from space to spire)
 Up, the pinnaced glory reached, and
 the pride of my soul was in sight.

In sight? Not half! for it seemed, it was
 certain, to match man's birth, ²⁵
 Nature in turn conceived, obeying an
 impulse as I;
 And the emulous heaven yearned down,
 made effort to reach the earth,
 As the earth had done her best, in my
 passion, to scale the sky:
 Novel splendors burst forth, grew familiar
 and dwelt with mine,
 Not a point nor peak but found and
 fixed its wandering star; ³⁰
 Meteor-moons, balls of blaze: and they
 did not pale nor pine,
 For earth had attained to heaven, there
 was no more near nor far.

Nay more; for there wanted not who
 walked in the glare and glow,
 Presences plain in the place; or, fresh
 from the Protoplast,
 Furnished for ages to come, when a kindlier
 wind should blow, ³⁵
 Lured now to begin and live, in a house
 to their liking at last;

¹ furnished with ramparts.

Or else the wonderful Dead who have
 passed through the body and gone,
 But were back once more to breathe in
 an old world worth their new:
 What never had been, was now; what was,
 as it shall be anon;
 And what is,—shall I say, matched
 both? for I was made perfect too. ⁴⁰

All through my keys that gave their sounds
 to a wish of my soul,
 All through my soul that praised as its
 wish flowed visibly forth,
 All through music and me! For think,
 had I painted the whole,
 Why, there it had stood, to see, nor
 the process so wonder-worth:
 Had I written the same, made verse—
 still effect proceeds from cause, ⁴⁵
 Ye know why the forms are fair, ye
 hear how the tale is told;
 It is all triumphant art, but art in obe-
 dience to laws,
 Painter and poet are proud in the
 artist-list enrolled:—

But here is the finger of God, a flash of
 the will that can,
 Existent behind all laws, that made
 them and, lo, they are! ⁵⁰
 And I know not if, save in this, such gift
 be allowed to man
 That out of three sounds he frame, not
 a fourth sound, but a star.
 Consider it well: each tone of our scale in
 itself is sought:
 It is everywhere in the world—loud,
 soft, and all is said:
 Give it to me to use! I mix it with two in
 my thought: ⁵⁵
 And there! Ye have heard and seen:
 consider and bow the head!

Well, it is gone at last, the palace of music
 I reared;
 Gone! and the good tears start, the
 praises that come too slow;
 For one is assured at first, one scarce can
 say that he feared,
 That he even gave it a thought, the
 gone thing was to go. ⁶⁰
 Never to be again! But many more of
 the kind
 As good, nay, better perchance: is this
 your comfort to me?

To me, who must be saved because I cling
with my mind

To the same, same self, same love,
same God: ay, what was, shall be.

Therefore to whom turn I but to thee,
the ineffable Name? 65

Builder and maker, thou, of houses not
made with hands!

What, have fear of change from thee who
art ever the same?

Doubt that thy power can fill the heart
that thy power expands?

There shall never be one lost good! What
was, shall live as before;

The evil is null, is naught, is silence
implying sound; 70

What was good shall be good, with, for
evil, so much good more;

On the earth the broken arcs; in the
heaven a perfect round.

All we have willed or hoped or dreamed
of good shall exist;

Not its semblance, but itself; no beauty,
nor good, nor power

Whose voice has gone forth, but each sur-
vives for the melodist 75

When eternity affirms the conception
of an hour.

The high that proved too high, the heroic
for earth too hard,

The passion that left the ground to lose
itself in the sky,

Are music sent up to God by the lover and
the bard;

Enough that he heard it once: we shall
hear it by and by. 80

And what is our failure here but a tri-
umph's evidence

For the fullness of the days? Have
we withered or agonized?

Why else was the pause prolonged but
that singing might issue thence?

Why rushed the discords in, but that
harmony should be prized?

Sorrow is hard to bear, and doubt is slow
to clear, 85

Each sufferer says his say, his scheme
of the weal and woe:

But God has a few of us whom he whispers
in the ear;

The rest may reason and welcome: 'tis
we musicians know.

Well, it is earth with me; silence resumes
her reign:

I will be patient and proud, and soberly
acquiesce. 90

Give me the keys. I feel for the common
chord again,

Sliding by semitones till I sink to the
minor,—yes,

And I blunt it into a ninth, and I stand on
alien ground,

Surveying awhile the heights I rolled
from into the deep;

Which, hark, I have dared and done, for
my resting-place is found, 95

The C Major of this life: so, now I will
try to sleep.

RABBI BEN EZRA

Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life, for which the first was
made:

Our times are in his hand

Who saith, "A whole I planned, 5

Youth shows but half; trust God: see all,
nor be afraid!"

Not that, amassing flowers,

Youth sighed, "Which rose make ours,

Which lily leave and then as best re-
call?"

Not that, admiring stars, 10

It yearned, "Nor Jove, nor Mars;

Mine be some figured flame which blends,
transcends them all!"

Not for such hopes and fears

Annulling youth's brief years,

Do I remonstrate: folly wide the mark! 15

Rather I prize the doubt

Low kinds exist without,

Finished and finite clods, untroubled by a
spark.

Poor vaunt of life indeed,

Were man but formed to feed 20

On joy, to solely seek and find and feast;

Such feasting ended, then

As sure an end to men;

Irks care the crop-full bird? Frets doubt
the maw-crammed beast?

Rejoice we are allied 25
 To that which doth provide
 And not partake, effect and not receive!
 A spark disturbs our clod;
 Nearer we hold of God
 Who gives, than of his tribes that take, I
 must believe. 30

Then, welcome each rebuff
 That turns earth's smoothness rough,
 Each sting that bids nor sit nor stand but
 go!

Be our joys three-parts pain!
 Strive, and hold cheap the strain; 35
 Learn, nor account the pang; dare, never
 grudge the throe!

For thence,—a paradox
 Which comforts while it mocks,—
 Shall life succeed in that it seems to fail:
 What I aspired to be, 40
 And was not, comforts me:
 A brute I might have been, but would
 not sink i' the scale.

What is he but a brute
 Whose flesh has soul to suit,
 Whose spirit works lest arms and legs
 want play? 45
 To man, propose this test—
 Thy body at its best,
 How far can that project thy soul on its
 lone way?

Yet gifts should prove their use:
 I own the Past profuse 50
 Of power each side, perfection every turn:
 Eyes, ears took in their dole,
 Brain treasured up the whole;
 Should not the heart beat once, "How
 good to live and learn?"

Not once beat, "Praise be thine! 55
 I see the whole design,
 I, who saw power, see now Love perfect too;
 Perfect I call thy plan:
 Thanks that I was a man!
 Maker, remake, complete,—I trust what
 thou shalt do!" 60

For pleasant is this flesh;
 Our soul, in its rose-mesh
 Pulled ever to the earth, still years for
 rest:

Would we some prize might hold
 To match those manifold 65
 Possessions of the brute,—gain most, as
 we did best!

Let us not always say,
 "Spite of this flesh to-day
 I strove, made head, gained ground upon
 the whole!"
 As the bird wings and sings, 70
 Let us cry, "All good things
 Are ours, nor soul helps flesh more, now,
 than flesh helps soul!"

Therefore I summon age
 To grant youth's heritage,
 Life's struggle having so far reached its
 term: 75
 Thence shall I pass, approved¹
 A man, for aye removed
 From the developed brute; a God though
 in the germ.

And I shall thereupon
 Take rest, ere I be gone 80
 Once more on my adventure brave and
 new:
 Fearless and unperplexed,
 When I wage battle next,
 What weapons to select, what armor to
 indue.²

Youth ended, I shall try 85
 My gain or loss thereby;
 Leave the fire ashes, what survives is gold:
 And I shall weigh the same,
 Give life its praise or blame:
 Young, all lay in dispute; I shall know,
 being old. 90

For note, when evening shuts,
 A certain moment cuts
 The deed off, calls the glory from the
 gray:
 A whisper from the west
 Shoots—"Add this to the rest, 95
 Take it and try its worth: here dies
 another day."

So, still within this life,
 Though lifted o'er its strife,
 Let me discern, compare, pronounce at
 last,

¹ proved.² put on.

"This rage was right i' the main, 100
That acquiescence vain:
The Future I may face now I have proved
the Past."

For more is not reserved
To man, with soul just nerved
To act to-morrow what he learns to-
day: 105
Here, work enough to watch
The Master work, and catch
Hints of the proper craft, tricks of the
tool's true play.

As it was better, youth
Should strive, through acts uncouth, 110
Toward making, than repose on aught
found made:
So, better, age, exempt
From strife, should know, than tempt
Further. Thou waitedst age: wait death
nor be afraid!

Enough now, if the Right 115
And Good and Infinite
Be named here, as thou callest thy hand
thine own,
With knowledge absolute,
Subject to no dispute
From fools that crowded youth, nor let
thee feel alone. 120

Be there, for once and all,
Severed great minds from small,
Announced to each his station in the
Past!
Was I, the world arraigned,
Were they, my soul disdained, 125
Right? Let age speak the truth and give
us peace at last!

Now, who shall arbitrate?
Ten men love what I hate,
Shun what I follow, slight what I re-
ceive;
Ten, who in ears and eyes 130
Match me: we all surmise,
They this thing, and I that: whom shall
my soul believe?

Not on the vulgar mass
Called "work," must sentence pass,
Things done, that took the eye and had the
price; 135

O'er which, from level stand,
The low world laid its hand,
Found straightway to its mind, could
value in a trice:

But all the world's coarse thumb
And finger failed to plumb, 140
So passed in making up the main account;
All instincts immature,
All purposes unsure,
That weighed not as his work, yet swelled
the man's amount:

Thoughts hardly to be packed 145
Into a narrow act,
Fancies that broke through language and
escaped;
All I could never be,
All, men ignored in me,
This I was worth to God, whose wheel the
pitcher shaped. 150

Ay, note that Potter's wheel,
That metaphor! and feel
Why time spins fast, why passive lies our
clay,—
Thou, to whom fools propound,
When the wine makes its round, 155
"Since life fleets, all is change; the Past
gone, seize to-day!"

Fool! All that is, at all,
Lasts ever, past recall;
Earth changes, but thy soul and God
stand sure:
What entered into thee, 160
That was, is, and shall be:
Time's wheel runs back or stops: Potter
and clay endure.

He fixed thee 'mid this dance
Of plastic circumstance,
This Present, thou, forsooth, wouldst
fain arrest: 165
Machinery just meant
To give thy soul its bent,
Try thee and turn thee forth, sufficiently
impressed.

What though the earlier grooves,
Which ran the laughing loves 170
Around thy base, no longer pause and
press?

What though, about thy rim,
Skull-things in order grim
Grow out, in graver mood, obey the
sterner stress?

Look not thou down but up! 175
To uses of a cup,
The festal board, lamp's flash and trum-
pet's peal,
The new wine's foaming flow,
The Master's lips aglow!
Thou, heaven's consummate cup, what
needst thou with earth's wheel? 180

But I need, now as then,
Thee, God, who moulded men;
And since, not even while the whirl was
worst,
Did I—to the wheel of life
With shapes and colors rife, 185
Bound dizzily—mistake my end, to slake
thy thirst:

So, take and use thy work,
Amend what flaws may lurk,
What strain o' the stuff, what warpings
past the aim!
My times be in thy hand! 190
Perfect the cup as planned!
Let age approve of youth, and death com-
plete the same!

EPILOGUE TO ASOLANDO

At the midnight in the silence of the sleep-
time,
When you set your fancies free,
Will they pass to where—by death, fools
think, imprisoned—
Low he lies who once so loved you, whom
you loved so,—
—Pity me? 5

Oh, to love so, be so loved, yet so mis-
taken!
What had I on earth to do
With the slothful, with the mawkish, the
unmanly?
Like the aimless, helpless, hopeless, did I
drivel
—Being—who? 10

One who never turned his back but
marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted,
wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight
better,
Sleep to wake. 15

No, at noonday in the bustle of man's
work-time
Greet the unseen with a cheer!
Bid him forward, breast and back as
either should be,
"Strive and thrive!" cry "Speed,—fight
on, fare ever
There as here!" 20

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING (1806–1861)

SONNETS FROM THE PORTUGUESE

I

I thought once how Theocritus had sung
Of the sweet years, the dear and wished-
for years,
Who each one in a gracious hand appears
To bear a gift for mortals, old or young:
And, as I mused it in his antique tongue, 5
I saw in gradual vision through my tears,
The sweet, sad years, the melancholy
years,
Those of my own life, who by turns had
flung
A shadow across me. Straightway I was
'ware,
So weeping, how a mystic Shape did move
Behind me, and drew me backward by
the hair; 11
And a voice said in mastery while I
strove,
"Guess now who holds thee?"—"Death!"
I said. But there,
The silver answer rang: "Not Death, but
Love."

VII

The face of all the world is changed, I
think,
Since first I heard the footsteps of thy
soul

Move still, oh, still, beside me as they stole
 Betwixt me and the dreadful outer brink
 Of obvious death, where I, who thought
 to sink, 5
 Was caught up into love and taught the
 whole
 Of life in a new rhythm. The cup of dole
 God gave for baptism, I am fain to drink,
 And praise its sweetness, Sweet, with thee
 anear.
 The names of country, heaven, are
 changed away 10
 For where thou art or shalt be, there or
 here;
 And this—this lute and song—loved
 yesterday,
 (The singing angels know) are only dear
 Because thy name moves right in what
 they say.

XIV

If thou must love me, let it be for nought
 Except for love's sake only. Do not say,
 "I love her for her smile—her look—her
 way
 Of speaking gently,—for a trick of thought
 That falls in well with mine, and certes
 brought 5
 A sense of pleasant ease on such a day;"—
 For these things in themselves, Beloved,
 may
 Be changed, or change for thee,—and love,
 so wrought,
 May be unwrought so. Neither love me
 for
 Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks
 dry: 10
 A creature might forget to weep, who bore
 Thy comfort long, and lose thy love
 thereby.
 But love me for love's sake, that evermore
 Thou may'st love on through love's
 eternity.

XXVI

I lived with visions for my company,
 Instead of men and women, years ago,
 And found them gentle mates, nor thought
 to know
 A sweeter music than they played to me.
 But soon their trailing purple was not free
 Of this world's dust—their lutes did silent
 grow, 6
 And I myself grew faint and blind below

Their vanishing eyes. Then THOU didst
 come—to be,
 Beloved, what they seemed. Their shining
 fronts,
 Their songs, their splendors (better, yet
 the same, 10
 As river water, hallowed into founts)
 Met in thee, and from out thee overcame
 My soul with satisfaction of all wants—
 Because God's gifts put man's best dreams
 to shame.

XLIII

How do I love thee? Let me count the
 ways.
 I love thee to the depth and breadth and
 height
 My soul can reach, when feeling out of
 sight
 For the ends of Being and Ideal Grace.
 I love thee to the level of everyday's 5
 Most quiet need, by sun and candle-
 light.
 I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
 I love thee purely, as they turn from
 Praise.
 I love thee with the passion put to use
 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's
 faith. 10
 I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
 With my lost saints,—I love thee with
 the breath,
 Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God
 choose,
 I shall but love thee better after death.

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN

Do ye hear the children weeping, O my
 brothers,
 Ere the sorrow comes with years?
 They are leaning their young heads against
 their mothers,
 And *that* cannot stop their tears.
 The young lambs are bleating in the
 meadows, 5
 The young birds are chirping in the
 nest,
 The young fawns are playing with the
 shadows,
 The young flowers are blowing to-
 ward the west—

But the young, young children, O my
 brothers,
 They are weeping bitterly! 10
 They are weeping in the playtime of the
 others,
 In the country of the free.

Do you question the young children in
 the sorrow
 Why their tears are falling so?
 The old man may weep for his to-
 morrow 15
 Which is lost in Long Ago;
 The old tree is leafless in the forest,
 The old year is ending in the frost,
 The old wound, if stricken, is the sorest,
 The old hope is hardest to be lost: 20
 But the young, young children, O my
 brothers,
 Do you ask them why they stand
 Weeping sore before the bosoms of their
 mothers,
 In our happy Fatherland?

They look up with their pale and sunken
 faces, 25
 And their looks are sad to see,
 For the man's hoary anguish draws and
 presses
 Down the cheeks of infancy;
 "Your old earth," they say, "is very
 dreary;
 Our young feet," they say, "are very
 weak; 30
 Few paces have we taken, yet are weary—
 Our grave-rest is very far to seek:
 Ask the aged why they weep, and not the
 children,
 For the outside earth is cold,
 And we young ones stand without, in
 our bewildering, 35
 And the graves are for the old.
 True," say the children, "it may happen
 That we die before our time:
 Little Alice died last year, her grave is
 shapen
 Like a snowball, in the rime.¹ 40

"We looked into the pit prepared to take
 her:
 Was no room for any work in the
 close clay!

From the sleep wherein she lieth none
 will wake her
 Crying, 'Get up, little Alice! it is day.'
 If you listen by that grave, in sun and
 shower, 45
 With your ear down, little Alice never
 cries;
 Could we see her face, be sure we should
 not know her,
 For the smile has time for growing
 in her eyes:
 And merry go her moments, lulled and
 stilled in
 The shroud by the kirk-chime. 50
 It is good when it happens," say the chil-
 dren,
 "That we die before our time."

Alas, alas, the children! they are seeking
 Death in life, as best to have:
 They are binding up their hearts away
 from breaking, 55
 With a cerement from the grave.
 Go out, children, from the mine and from
 the city,
 Sing out, children, as the little
 thrushes do;
 Pluck your handfuls of the meadow-
 cowslips pretty,
 Laugh aloud, to feel your fingers let
 them through! 60
 But they answer, "Are your cowslips of
 the meadows
 Like our weeds anear the mine?
 Leave us quiet in the dark of the coal-
 shadows,
 From your pleasures fair and fine!

"For oh," say the children, "we are
 weary, 65
 And we cannot run or leap;
 If we cared for any meadows, it were
 merely
 To drop down in them and sleep.
 Our knees tremble sorely in the stooping,
 We fall upon our faces, trying to go; 70
 And, underneath our heavy eyelids droop-
 ing,
 The reddest flower would look as
 pale as snow.
 For, all day, we drag our burden tiring,
 Through the coal-dark, underground;
 Or, all day, we drive the wheels of iron 75
 In the factories, round and round.

¹ frost.

"For, all day, the wheels are droning,
 turning;
 Their wind comes in our faces,
 Till our hearts turn our heads, with pulses
 burning,
 And the walls turn in their places: 80
 Turns the sky in the high window, blank
 and reeling,
 Turns the long light that drops adown
 the wall,
 Turn the black flies that crawl along the
 ceiling:
 All are turning, all the day, and we
 with all.
 And all day the iron wheels are dron-
 ing: 85
 And sometimes we could pray,
 'O ye wheels,' (breaking out in a mad
 moaning)
 'Stop! be silent for to-day!'"

Ay, be silent! Let them hear each other
 breathing
 For a moment, mouth to mouth! 90
 Let them touch each other's hands, in a
 fresh wreathing
 Of their tender human youth!
 Let them feel that this cold metallic motion
 Is not all the life God fashions or re-
 veals:
 Let them prove their living souls against
 the notion 95
 That they live in you, or under you,
 O wheels!
 Still, all day, the iron wheels go onward,
 Grinding life down from its mark;
 And the children's souls, which God is
 calling sunward,
 Spin on blindly in the dark. 100

Now tell the poor young children, O my
 brothers,
 To look up to Him and pray;
 So the blessed One who blesseth all the
 others,
 Will bless them another day.
 They answer, "Who is God that He
 should hear us, 105
 While the rushing of the iron wheels
 is stirred?
 When we sob aloud, the human creatures
 near us
 Pass by, hearing not, or answer not
 a word.

And we hear not (for the wheels in their
 resounding)
 Strangers speaking at the door: 110
 Is it likely God, with angels singing round
 Him,
 Hears our weeping any more?

"Two words, indeed, of praying we re-
 member;
 And at midnight's hour of harm,
 'Our Father,' looking upward in the
 chamber, 115
 We say softly for a charm.
 We know no other words, except 'Our
 Father,'
 And we think that, in some pause of
 angels' song,
 God may pluck them with the silence
 sweet to gather,
 And hold both within His right hand
 which is strong. 120
 'Our Father!' If He heard us, He would
 surely
 (For they call Him good and mild)
 Answer, smiling down the steep world
 very purely,
 'Come and rest with me, my child.'

"But no!" say the children, weeping
 faster, 125
 "He is speechless as a stone:
 And they tell us, of His image is the
 master
 Who commands us to work on.
 Go to!" say the children,—"Up in
 Heaven,
 Dark, wheel-like, turning clouds are
 all we find: 130
 Do not mock us; grief has made us un-
 believing:
 We look up for God, but tears have
 made us blind."
 Do you hear the children weeping and
 disproving,
 O my brothers, what ye preach?
 For God's possible is taught by His
 world's loving, 135
 And the children doubt of each.

And well may the children weep before
 you!
 They are weary ere they run;
 They have never seen the sunshine, nor
 the glory
 Which is brighter than the sun: 140

They know the grief of man, without its
wisdom;
They sink in man's despair, without
its calm;
And slaves, without the liberty in Christ-
dom,
Are martyrs, by the pang without
the palm:
Are worn as if with age, yet unretriev-
ingly 145
The harvest of its memories cannot
reap,—
Are orphans of the earthly love and
heavenly.
Let them weep! let them weep!

They look up with their pale and sunken
faces,
And their look is dread to see, 150
For they mind you of their angels in high
places,
With eyes turned on Deity.
"How long," they say, "how long, O cruel
nation,
Will you stand, to move the world,
on a child's heart,—
Stifle down with a mailed heel its palpi-
tation, 155
And tread onward to your throne
amid the mart?
Our blood splashes upward, O gold-
heaper,
And your purple shows your path!
But the child's sob in the silence curses
deeper
Than the strong man in his wrath." 160

A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

What was he doing, the great god Pan,
Down in the reeds by the river?
Spreading ruin and scattering ban,
Splashing and paddling with hoofs of a
goat,
And breaking the golden lilies afloat 5
With the dragon-fly on the river?

He tore out a reed, the great god Pan,
From the deep cool bed of the river;
The limpid water turbidly ran
And the broken lilies a-dying lay, 10
And the dragon-fly had fled away,
Ere he brought it out of the river.

High on the shore sat the great god Pan,
While turbidly flowed the river;
And hacked and hewed as a great god
can 15
With his hard bleak steel at the patient
reed,
Till there was not a sign of the leaf indeed
To prove it fresh from the river.

He cut it short, did the great god Pan,
(How tall it stood in the river!), 20
Then drew the pith, like the heart of a
man,
Steadily from the outside ring,
And notched the poor dry empty thing
In holes, as he sat by the river.

"This is the way," laughed the great god
Pan 25
(Laughed while he sat by the river),
"The only way, since gods began
To make sweet music, they could succeed."
Then dropping his mouth to a hole in the
reed,
He blew in power by the river. 30

Sweet, sweet, sweet, O Pan!
Piercing sweet by the river!
Blinding sweet, O great god Pan!
The sun on the hill forgot to die,
And the lilies revived, and the dragon-
fly 35
Came back to dream on the river.

Yet half a beast is the great god Pan
To laugh, as he sits by the river,
Making a poet out of a man: 39
The true gods sigh for the cost and pain—
For the reed which grows never more again
As a reed with the reeds of the river.

EDWARD FITZGERALD (1809–1883)

RUBÁIYÁT OF OMAR KHAYYÁM

I

Wake! For the Sun, who scatter'd into
flight
The Stars before him from the Field of
Night,
Drives Night along with them from
Heav'n, and strikes
The Sultán's Turret with a Shaft of Light.

II

Before the phantom of False morning
 died,⁵
 Methought a Voice within the Tavern
 cried,
 "When all the Temple is prepared
 within,
 Why nods the drowsy Worshipper out-
 side?"

III

And, as the Cock crew, those who stood
 before
 The Tavern shouted—"Open, then the
 Door!"¹⁰
 You know how little while we have to
 stay,
 And, once departed, may return no more."

IV

Now the New Year reviving old Desires,
 The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires,
 Where the WHITE HAND OF MOSES on
 the Bough¹⁵
 Puts out, and Jesus from the Ground sus-
 pires.

V

Iram indeed is gone with all his Rose,
 And Jamshyd's Sev'n-ring'd Cup where
 no one knows;
 But still a Ruby kindles in the Vine,
 And many a Garden by the Water blows.²⁰

VI

And David's lips are lockt; but in divine
 High-piping Pehlevi, with "Wine! Wine!
 Wine!
 Red Wine!"—the Nightingale cries to
 the Rose
 That sallow cheek of hers to incarnadine.

VII

Come, fill the Cup, and in the fire of
 Spring²⁵
 Your Winter-garment of Repentance fling:
 The Bird of Time has but a little way
 To flutter—and the Bird is on the Wing.

VIII

Whether at Naishápúr or Babylon,
 Whether the Cup with sweet or bitter
 run,³⁰

The Wine of Life keeps oozing drop by
 drop,
 The Leaves of Life keep falling one by one.

IX

Each Morn a thousand Roses brings, you
 say;
 Yes, but where leaves the Rose of Yester-
 day?
 And this first Summer month that
 brings the Rose³⁵
 Shall take Jamshyd and Kaikobád away.

X

Well, let it take them! What have we to
 do
 With Kaikobád the Great, or Kaikhosrú?
 Let Zâl and Rustum bluster as they
 will,
 Or Hâtîm call to Supper—heed not you.⁴⁰

XI

With me along the strip of Herbage strown
 That just divides the desert from the
 sown,
 Where name of Slave and Sultân is
 forgot—
 And Peace to Mahmúd on his golden
 Throne!

XII

A Book of Verses underneath the Bough,⁴⁵
 A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and
 Thou
 Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
 Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

XIII

Some for the Glories of This World; and
 some
 Sigh for the Prophet's Paradise to come;⁵⁰
 Ah, take the Cash, and let the Credit
 go,
 Nor heed the rumble of a distant Drum!

XIV

Look to the blowing Rose about us—"Lo,
 Laughing," she says, "into the world I
 blow,
 At once the silken tassel of my Purse⁵⁵
 Tear, and its Treasure on the Garden
 throw."

XV

And those who husbanded the Golden
Grain,
And those who flung it to the winds like
Rain,
Alike to no such aureate Earth are
turn'd
As, buried once, Men want dug up again.⁶⁰

XVI

The Worldly Hope men set their Hearts
upon
Turns Ashes—or it prospers; and anon,
Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty
Face,
Lighting a little hour or two—was gone.

XVII

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai¹ ⁶⁵
Whose Portals are alternate Night and
Day,
How Sultân after Sultân with his Pomp
Abode his destin'd Hour, and went his
way.

XVIII

They say the Lion and the Lizard keep
The Courts where Jamshyd gloried and
drank deep: ⁷⁰
And Bahrâm, that great Hunter—the
Wild Ass
Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break
his Sleep.

XIX

I sometimes think that never blows so red
The Rose as where some buried Cæsar
bled;
That every Hyacinth the Garden wears
Dropt in her Lap from some once lovely
Head. ⁷⁶

XX

And this reviving Herb whose tender
Green
Fledges the River-Lip on which we lean—
Ah, lean upon it lightly! for who knows
From what once lovely Lip it springs un-
seen! ⁸⁰

XXI

Ah, my Beloved, fill the Cup that clears
TO-DAY of past Regrets and future Fears:
¹ inn.

To-morrow!—Why, To-morrow I may
be
Myself with Yesterday's Sev'n thousand
Years.

XXII

For some we loved, the loveliest and the
best ⁸⁵
That from his Vintage rolling Time hath
prest,
Have drunk their Cup a Round or two
before,
And one by one crept silently to rest.

XXIII

And we that now make merry in the Room
They left, and Summer dresses in new
bloom, ⁹⁰
Ourselves must we beneath the Couch
of Earth
Descend—ourselves to make a couch—for
whom?

XXIV

Ah, make the most of what we yet may
spend,
Before we too into the Dust descend;
Dust into Dust, and under Dust to lie, ⁹⁵
Sans Wine, sans Song, sans Singer, and—
sans End!

XXV

Alike for those who for TO-DAY prepare,
And those that after some TO-MORROW
stare,
A Muezzin from the Tower of Darkness
cries,
"Fools! your Reward is neither Here nor
There." ¹⁰⁰

XXVI

Why, all the Saints and Sages who dis-
cuss'd
Of the Two Worlds so wisely—they are
thrust
Like foolish Prophets forth; their Words
to Scorn
Are scatter'd, and their Mouths are stopt
with Dust.

XXVII

Myself when young did eagerly frequent
Doctor and Saint, and heard great argu-
ment ¹⁰⁶
About it and about: but evermore
Came out by the same door where in I
went.

XXVIII

With them the seed of Wisdom did I sow,
 And with mine own hand wrought to make
 it grow; ¹¹⁰
 And this was all the Harvest that I
 reap'd—
 "I came like Water, and like Wind I go."

XXIX

Into this Universe, and *Why* not knowing
 Nor *Whence*, like Water willy-nilly flowing;
 And out of it, as Wind along the Waste,
 I know not *Whither*, willy-nilly, blowing.

XXX

What, without asking, hither hurried
Whence? ¹¹⁷
 And, without asking, *Whither* hurried
 hence?

Oh, many a Cup of this forbidden Wine
 Must drown the memory of that insolence!

XXXI

Up from Earth's Centre through the
 Seventh Gate ¹²¹
 I rose, and on the Throne of Saturn sate,
 And many a Knot unravell'd by the
 Road;
 But not the Master-knot of Human Fate.

XXXII

There was the Door to which I found no
 Key; ¹²⁵
 There was the Veil through which I might
 not see:
 Some little talk awhile of ME and THEE
 There was—and then no more of THEE
 and ME.

XXXIII

Earth could not answer; nor the Seas that
 mourn
 In flowing Purple, of their Lord forlorn; ¹³⁰
 Nor rolling Heaven, with all his Signs
 reveal'd
 And hidden by the sleeve of Night and
 Morn.

XXXIV

Then of the THEE IN ME who works be-
 hind
 The Veil, I lifted up my hands to find

A Lamp amid the Darkness; and I
 heard, ¹³⁵
 As from Without—"THE ME WITHIN
 THEE BLIND!"

XXXV

Then to the Lip of this poor earthen Urn
 I lean'd, the Secret of my Life to learn:
 And Lip to Lip it murmur'd—"While
 you live,
 Drink!—for, once dead, you never shall
 return." ¹⁴⁰

XXXVI

I think the Vessel, that with fugitive
 Articulation answer'd, once did live,
 And drink; and Ah! the passive Lip I
 kiss'd,
 How many Kisses might it take—and give!

XXXVII

For I remember stopping by the way ¹⁴⁵
 To watch a Potter thumping his wet Clay:
 And with its all-obiterated Tongue
 It murmur'd—"Gently, Brother, gently,
 pray!"

XXXVIII

And has not such a Story from of Old
 Down Man's successive generations roll'd
 Of such a clod of saturated Earth ¹⁵¹
 Cast by the Maker into Human mould?

XXXIX

And not a drop that from our Cups we
 throw
 For Earth to drink of, but may steal below
 To quench the fire of Anguish in some
 Eye ¹⁵⁵
 There hidden—far beneath, and long ago.

XL

As then the Tulip for her morning sup
 Of Heav'nly Vintage from the soil looks
 up,
 Do you devoutly do the like, till Heav'n
 To Earth invert you—like an empty
 Cup. ¹⁶⁰

XLI

Perplexed no more with Human or Divine,
 To-morrow's tangle to the winds resign,
 And lose your fingers in the tresses of
 The Cypress-slender Minister of Wine.

XLII

And if the Wine you drink, the Lip you
press, ¹⁶⁵
End in what All begins and ends in—Yes;
Think then you are TO-DAY what
YESTERDAY
You were—TO-MORROW you shall not be
less.

XLIII

So when the Angel of the darker Drink
At last shall find you by the river-
brink, ¹⁷⁰
And, offering his Cup, invite your Soul
Forth to your Lips to quaff—you shall not
shrink.

XLIV

Why, if the Soul can fling the Dust aside,
And naked on the Air of Heaven ride,
Were 't not a Shame—were 't not a
Shame for him ¹⁷⁵
In this clay carcase crippled to abide?

XLV

'Tis but a Tent where takes his one day's
rest
A Sultán to the realm of Death address;
The Sultán rises, and the dark Ferrásh¹
Strikes, and prepares it for another Guest.

XLVI

And fear not lest Existence closing
your ¹⁸¹
Account, and mine, should know the like
no more;
The Eternal Sáki² from that Bowl has
pour'd
Millions of Bubbles like us, and will pour.

XLVII

When You and I behind the Veil are
past, ¹⁸⁵
Oh, but the long, long while the World
shall last
Which of our Coming and Departure
heeds
As the Sea's self should heed a pebble-cast.

XLVIII

A Moment's Halt—a momentary taste
Of BEING from the Well amid the Waste—

¹ attendant.² wine-bearer.

And Lo!—the phantom Caravan has
reach'd ¹⁹¹
The NOTHING it set out from—Oh, make
haste!

XLIX

Would you that spangle of Existence spend
About THE SECRET—quick about it, Friend!
A Hair perhaps divides the False and
True— ¹⁹⁵
And upon what, prithee, does life depend?

L

A Hair perhaps divides the False and True;
Yes; and a single Alif³ were the clue—
Could you but find it—to the Treasure-
house,
And peradventure to THE MASTER too; ²⁰⁰

LI

Whose secret Presence, through Creation's
veins
Running Quicksilver-like eludes your
pains;
Taking all shapes from Máh to Máhi;⁴
and
They change and perish all—but He re-
mains;

LII

A moment guess'd—then back behind the
Fold ²⁰⁵
Immerst of Darkness round the Drama
roll'd
Which, for the Pastime of Eternity,
He doth Himself contrive, enact, behold.

LIII

But if in vain, down on the stubborn floor
Of Earth, and up to Heav'n's unopening
Door, ²¹⁰
You gaze TO-DAY, while You are You—
how then
TO-MORROW, when You shall be You no
more?

LIV

Waste not your Hour, nor in the vain pur-
suit
Of This and That endeavor and dispute;
Better be jocund with the fruitful Grape
Than sadden after none, or bitter,
Fruit. ²¹⁶

³ the letter A.⁴ from fish to moon.

LV

You know, my Friends, with what a brave
Carouse
I made a Second Marriage in my house;
Divorced old barren Reason from my
Bed,
And took the Daughter of the Vine to
Spouse. 220

LVI

For "Is" and "Is-NOT" though with Rule
and Line,
And "UP-AND-DOWN" by Logic I define,
Of all that one should care to fathom, I
Was never deep in anything but—Wine.

LVII

Ah, but my Computations, People say, ²²⁵
Reduced the Year to better reckoning?—
Nay,
'Twas only striking from the Calendar
Unborn To-morrow, and dead Yesterday.

LVIII

And lately, by the Tavern Door agape,
Came shining through the Dusk an Angel
Shape 230
Bearing a Vessel on his Shoulder; and
He bid me taste of it; and 't was—the
Grape!

LIX

The Grape that can with Logic absolute
The Two-and-Seventy jarring Sects con-
fute:
The sovereign Alchemist that in a
trice 235
Life's leaden metal into Gold transmute:

LX

The mighty Mahmúd, Allah-breathing
Lord,
That all the misbelieving and black Horde
Of Fears and Sorrows that infest the
Soul
Scatters before him with his whirlwind
Sword. 240

LXI

Why, be this Juice the growth of God,
who dare
Blasphe'me the twisted tendril as a
Snare?

A Blessing, we should use it, should we
not?
And if a Curse—why, then, Who set it
there?

LXII

I must abjure the Balm of Life, I must, ²⁴⁵
Scared by some After-reckoning ta'en on
trust,
Or lured with Hope of some Diviner
Drink,
To fill the Cup—when crumbled into
Dust!

LXIII

Oh, threats of Hell and Hopes of Paradise!
One thing at least is certain—*This* Life
flies; 250
One thing is certain and the rest is Lies;
The Flower that once has blown for ever
dies.

LXIV

Strange, is it not? that of the myriads who
Before us pass'd the door of Darkness
through,
Not one returns to tell us of the Road,
Which to discover we must travel too. 256

LXV

The Revelations of Devout and Learn'd
Who rose before us, and as Prophets
burn'd,
Are all but Stories, which, awoke from
Sleep
They told their comrades, and to Sleep re-
turn'd. 260

LXVI

I sent my Soul through the Invisible,
Some letter of that After-life to spell:
And by and by my Soul return'd to me,
And answer'd "I Myself am Heav'n and
Hell:"

LXVII

Heav'n but the Vision of fulfill'd Desire, ²⁶⁵
And Hell the Shadow from a Soul on fire,
Cast on the Darkness into which Our-
selves,
So late emerged from, shall so soon expire.

LXVIII

We are no other than a moving row
Of Magic Shadow-shapes that come and
go 270

Round with the Sun-illumin'd Lantern
held
In Midnight by the Master of the Show;

LXIX

But helpless Pieces of the Game He
plays
Upon this Chequer-board of Nights and
Days;
Hither and thither moves, and checks,
and slays, ²⁷⁵
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

LXX

The Ball no question makes of Ayes and
Noes,
But Here or There as strikes the Player
goes;
And He that toss'd you down into the
Field,
He knows about it all—*HE* knows—*HE*
knows! ²⁸⁰

LXXI

The Moving Finger writes; and, having
writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

LXXII

And that inverted Bowl they call the
Sky, ²⁸⁵
Whereunder crawling coop'd we live and
die,
Lift not your hands to *It* for help—for
It
As impotently moves as you or I.

LXXIII

With Earth's first Clay They did the Last
Man knead,
And there of the Last Harvest sow'd the
Seed: ²⁹⁰
And the first Morning of Creation
wrote
What the Last Dawn of Reckoning shall
read.

LXXIV

YESTERDAY *This* Day's Madness did pre-
pare;
TO-MORROW'S Silence, Triumph, or De-
spair:

Drink! for you know not whence you
came, nor why: ²⁹⁵
Drink! for you know not why you go, nor
where.

LXXV

I tell you this—When, started from the
Goal,
Over the flaming shoulders of the Foal
Of Heav'n Parwin and Mushtari¹ they
flung,
In my predestined Plot of Dust and
Soul ³⁰⁰

LXXVI

The Vine had struck a fibre: which about
If clings my Being—let the Dervish flout;
Of my Base metal may be filed a Key,
That shall unlock the Door he howls with-
out.

LXXVII

And this I know: whether the one True
Light ³⁰⁵
Kindle to Love, or Wrath-consume me
quite,
One Flash of It within the Tavern
caught
Better than in the Temple lost outright.

LXXVIII

What! out of senseless Nothing to provoke
A conscious Something to resent the
yoke ³¹⁰
Of unpermitted Pleasure, under pain
Of Everlasting Penalties, if broke!

LXXIX

What! from his helpless Creature be re-
paid
Pure Gold for what he lent him dross-
allay'd—
Sue for a Debt we never did contract, ³¹⁵
And cannot answer—Oh, the sorry trade!

LXXX

Oh Thou, who didst with pitfall and with
gin
Beset the Road I was to wander in,
Thou wilt not with Predestined Evil
round
Enmesh, and then impute my Fall to
Sin! ³²⁰

¹ The Pleiads and Jupiter.

LXXXI

Oh Thou, who Man of baser Earth didst
make,
And ev'n with Paradise devise the Snake:
For all the Sin wherewith the Face of
Man
Is blacken'd—Man's forgiveness give—
and take!

.

LXXXII

As under cover of departing Day ³²⁵
Slunk hunger-stricken Ramazán away,
Once more within the Potter's house
alone
I stood, surrounded by the Shapes of Clay.

LXXXIII

Shapes of all Sorts and Sizes, great and
small,
That stood along the floor and by the
wall; ³³⁰
And some loquacious Vessels were; and
some
Listen'd perhaps, but never talk'd at all.

LXXXIV

Said one among them—"Surely not in
vain
My substance of the common Earth was
ta'en
And to this Figure moulded, to be
broke, ³³⁵
Or trampled back to shapeless Earth
again."

LXXXV

Then said a Second—"Ne'er a peevish
Boy
Would break the Bowl from which he
drank in joy;
And He that with his hand the Vessel
made
Will surely not in after Wrath destroy." ³⁴⁰

LXXXVI

After a momentary silence spake
Some Vessel of a more ungainly Make:
"They sneer at me for leaning all awry:
What! did the Hand then of the Potter
shake?"

LXXXVII

Whereat some of the loquacious Lot— ³⁴⁵
I think a Súfi pipkin—waxing hot—
"All this of Pot and Potter—Tell me
then,
Who is the Potter, pray, and who the
Pot?"

LXXXVIII

"Why," said another, "Some there are
who tell
Of one who threatens he will toss to Hell ³⁵⁰
The luckless Pots he marr'd in making—
Pish!
He's a Good Fellow, and 't will all be well."

LXXXIX

"Well," murmur'd one, "Let whoso make
or buy,
My Clay with long Oblivion is gone dry:
But fill me with the old familiar Juice, ³⁵⁵
Methinks I might recover by and by."

XC

So while the Vessels one by one were
speaking,
The little Moon look'd in that all were
seeking:
And then they jogg'd each other,
"Brother! Brother!
Now for the Porter's shoulder-knot a-
creaking!" ³⁶⁰

.

XCI

Ah, with the Grape my fading Life pro-
vide,
And wash the Body whence the Life has
died,
And lay me, shrouded in the living Leaf,
By some not unfrequented Garden-side.

XCII

That ev'n my buried Ashes such a snare ³⁶⁵
Of Vintage shall fling up into the Air
As not a True-believer passing by
But shall be overtaken unaware.

XCIII

Indeed the Idols I have loved so long
Have done my credit in this World much
wrong: ³⁷⁰

Have drown'd my Glory in a shallow
Cup,
And sold my Reputation for a Song.

XCIV

Indeed, indeed, Repentance oft before
I swore—but was I sober when I swore?
And then and then came Spring, and
Rose-in-hand 375
My thread-bare Penitence apieces tore.

XCV

And much as Wine has play'd the Infidel,
And robb'd me of my Robe of Honor—
Well,
I wonder often what the Vintners buy
One half so precious as the stuff they sell. 380

XCVI

Yet Ah, that Spring should vanish with
the Rose!
That Youth's sweet-scented manuscript
should close!
The Nightingale that in the branches
sang,
Ah whence, and whither flown again, who
knows!

XCVII

Would but the Desert of the Fountain
yield 385
One glimpse—if dimly, yet indeed, re-
veal'd,
To which the fainting Traveller might
spring,
As springs the trampled herbage of the
field.

XCVIII

Would but some wingéd Angel ere too
late
Arrest the yet unfolded Roll of Fate, 390
And make the stern Recorder otherwise
Enregister, or quite obliterate!

XCIX

Ah Love! could you and I with Him con-
spire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things
Entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits—and
then 395
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's desire!

C

Yon rising Moon that looks for us again—
How oft hereafter will she wax and wane;
How oft hereafter rising look for us
Through this same Garden—and for *one* in
vain! 400

CI

And when like her, oh Sáki, you shall pass
Among the Guests Star-scatter'd on the
Grass,
And in your joyous errand reach the
spot
Where I made One—turn down an empty
Glass!

TAMAM¹

THOMAS CARLYLE (1795-1881)

From SARTOR RESARTUS

Book III, Chapter 8

NATURAL SUPERNATURALISM

It is in his stupendous Section, headed *Natural Supernaturalism*, that the Professor first becomes a Seer; and, after long effort, such as we have witnessed, finally subdues under his feet the refractory Clothes-Philosophy, and takes victorious possession thereof. Phantasms enough he has had to struggle with; "Cloth-webs and Cob-webs," of Imperial Mantles, Superannuated Symbols, and what [10 not; yet still did he courageously pierce through. Nay, worst of all, two quite mysterious, world embracing Phantasms, TIME and SPACE, have ever hovered round him, perplexing and bewildering; but with these also he now resolutely grapples, these also he victoriously rends asunder. In a word, he has looked fixedly on Existence, till, one after the other, its earthly hulls and garnitures have all [20 melted away; and now, to his rapt vision, the interior celestial Holy of Holies lies disclosed.

. . . This stupendous Section we, after long painful meditation, have found not to be unintelligible; but, on the contrary, to grow clear, nay radiant, and

¹ the end.

all-illuminating. Let the reader, turning on it what utmost force of speculative intellect is in him, do his part; as we, [30 by judicious selection and adjustment, shall study to do ours:

"Deep has been, and is, the significance of Miracles," thus quietly begins the Professor; "far deeper perhaps than we imagine. Meanwhile, the question of questions were: What specially is a Miracle? To that Dutch King of Siam, an icicle had been a miracle; whoso had carried with him an air-pump and [40 vial of vitriolic ether, might have worked a miracle. To my Horse, again, who unhappily is still more unscientific, do not I work a miracle, and magical '*Open sesame!*' every time I please to pay twopence and open for him an impassable *Schlagbaum*, or shut Turnpike?

"But is not a real Miracle simply a violation of the Laws of Nature?" ask several. Whom I answer by this [50 new question: what are the Laws of Nature? To me perhaps the rising of one from the dead were no violation of these Laws, but a confirmation; were some far deeper Law, now first penetrated into, and by Spiritual Force, even as the rest have all been, brought to bear on us with its Material Force.

* * * * *

"But is it not the deepest Law of Nature that she be constant?" cries an [60 illuminated class: 'Is not the Machine of the Universe fixed to move by unalterable rules?' Probable enough, good friends: nay, I, too, must believe that the God, whom ancient inspired men assert to be 'without variableness or shadow of turning,' does indeed never change; that Nature, that the Universe, which no one whom it so pleases can be prevented from calling a Machine, [70 does move by the most unalterable rules. And now of you too I make the old inquiry: What those same unalterable rules, forming the complete Statute-Book of Nature, may possibly be?

"They stand written in our Works of Science, say you; in the accumulated records of man's Experience?—Was man with his Experience present at the Crea-

tion, then, to see how it all went on? [80 Have any deepest scientific individuals yet dived down to the foundations of the Universe, and gauged everything there? Did the Maker take them into His counsel; that they read His ground-plan of the incomprehensible All; and can say, This stands marked therein, and no more than this? Alas! not in anywise! These scientific individuals have been nowhere but where we also are; have seen some [90 handbreadths deeper than we see into the Deep that is infinite, without bottom as without shore.

* * * * *

"System of Nature! To the wisest man, wide as is his vision, Nature remains of quite *infinite* depth, of quite infinite expansion; and all Experience thereof limits itself to some few computed centuries, and measured square-miles. The course of Nature's phases, on this our [100 little fraction of a Planet, is partially known to us: but who knows what deeper courses these depend on; what infinitely larger Cycle (of causes) our little Epicycle revolves on? To the Minnow every cranny and pebble, and quality and accident, of its little native Creek may have become familiar: but does the Minnow understand the Ocean Tides and periodic Currents, the Trade-winds, and Mon- [110 soons, and Moon's Eclipses,—by all which the condition of its little Creek is regulated, and may, from time to time (*unmiraculously* enough), be quite overset and reversed? Such a minnow is Man; his Creek this Planet Earth; his Ocean the immeasurable All; his Monsoons and periodic Currents the mysterious Course of Providence through *Æons* of *Æons*.

"We speak of the Volume of Na- [120 ture: and truly a Volume it is,—whose Author and Writer is God. To read it! Dost thou, does man, so much as well know the Alphabet thereof? . . .

"Innumerable are the illusions and legerdemain-tricks of Custom: but of all these perhaps the cleverest is her knack of persuading us that the Miraculous, by simple repetition, ceases to be Miraculous. True, it is by this means [130 we live; for man must work as well as

wonder: and herein is Custom so far a kind nurse, guiding him to his true benefit. But she is a fond foolish nurse, or rather we are false foolish nurslings, when, in our resting and reflecting hours, we prolong the same deception. . . .

"But deepest of all illusory Appearances, for hiding Wonder, as for many other ends, are your two grand funda- [140] mental world-enveloping Appearances, SPACE and TIME. These, as spun and woven for us from before Birth itself, to clothe our celestial ME for dwelling here, and yet to blind it,—lie all-embracing, as the universal canvas, or warp and woof, whereby all minor Illusions, in this Phantasm Existence, weave and paint themselves. In vain, while here on Earth, shall you endeavor to strip them off; [150] you can, at best, but rend them asunder for moments, and look through.

"Fortunatus had a wishing Hat, which when he put on, and wished himself Anywhere, behold he was There. By this means had Fortunatus triumphed over Space, he had annihilated Space; for him there was no Where, but all was Here. Were a Hatter to establish himself, in the Wahngasse of Weissnichtwo, and [160] make felts of this sort for all mankind, what a world we should have of it! Still stranger, should, on the opposite side of the street, another Hatter establish himself; and, as his fellow-craftsman made Space-annihilating Hats, make Time-annihilating! Of both would I purchase, were it with my last groschen, but chiefly of this latter. To clap-on your felt, and, simply by wishing that you were [170] *Anywhere*, straightway to be *There!* Next to clap-on your other felt, and simply by wishing that you were *Anywhen*, straightway to be *Then!* This were indeed the grander: shooting at will from the Fire-Creation of the World to its Fire-Consummation; here historically present in the First Century, conversing face to face with Paul and Seneca; there prophetically in the Thirty-first, con- [180] versing also face to face with other Pauls and Senecas, who as yet stand hidden in the depth of that late Time!

"Or thinkest thou, it were impossible, unimaginable? Is the Past annihilated,

then, or only past; is the Future non-extant or only future? Those mystic faculties of thine, Memory and Hope, already answer: already through those mystic avenues, thou the Earth- [190] blinded summonest both Past and Future, and communest with them, though as yet darkly, and with mute beckonings. The curtains of Yesterday drop down, the curtains of To-morrow roll up; but Yesterday and To-morrow both *are*. Pierce through the Time-Element, glance into the Eternal. Believe what thou findest written in the sanctuaries of Man's Soul, even as all Thinkers, in all [200] ages, have devoutly read it there: that Time and Space are not God, but creations of God; that with God as it is a universal HERE, so is it an everlasting NOW.

"And seest thou therein any glimpse of IMMORTALITY?—O Heaven! Is the white Tomb of our Loved One, who died from our arms, and had to be left behind us there, which rises in the distance, like [210] a pale, mournfully receding Milestone, to tell how many toilsome uncheered miles we have journeyed on alone,—but a pale spectral Illusion! Is the lost Friend still mysteriously Here, even as we are Here mysteriously with God!—Know of a truth that only the Time-shadows have perished, or are perishable; that the real Being of whatever was, and whatever is, and whatever will be, *is* even now and [220] forever. This, should it unhappily seem new, thou mayst ponder at thy leisure; for the next twenty years, or the next twenty centuries: believe it thou must; understand it thou canst not.

"That the Thought-forms, Space and Time, wherein, once for all, we are sent into this Earth to live, should condition and determine our whole Practical reasonings, conceptions, and imagings or [230] imaginings,—seems altogether fit, just, and unavoidable. But that they should, furthermore, usurp such sway over pure spiritual Meditation, and blind us to the wonder everywhere lying close on us, seems nowise so. Admit Space and Time to their due rank as Forms of Thought; nay, even, if thou wilt, to their quite undue rank of Realities: and con-

sider, then, with thyself how their [240 thin disguises hide from us the brightest God-effulgences! Thus, were it not miraculous, could I stretch forth my hand and clutch the Sun? Yet thou seest me daily stretch forth my hand, and therewith clutch many a thing, and swing it hither and thither. Art thou a grown baby, then, to fancy that the Miracle lies in miles of distance, or in pounds avoirdupois of weight; and not to see that [250 the true inexplicable God-revealing Miracle lies in this, that I can stretch forth my hand at all; that I have free Force to clutch aught therewith? Innumerable other of this sort are the deceptions, and wonder-hiding stupefactions, which Space practices on us.

"Still worse is it with regard to Time. Your grand anti-magician, and universal wonder-hider, is this same lying Time. [260 Had we but the Time-annihilating Hat, to put on for once only, we should see ourselves in a World of Miracles, wherein all fabled or authentic Thaumaturgy, and feats of Magic, were outdone. But unhappily we have not such a Hat; and man, poor fool that he is, can seldom and scantily help himself without one.

"Were it not wonderful, for instance, had Orpheus, or Amphion, built the [270 walls of Thebes by the mere sound of his Lyre? Yet tell me, Who built these walls of Weissnichtwo; summoning out all the sandstone rocks, to dance along from the *Stein-bruch* (now a huge Troglodyte Chasm, with frightful green-mantled pools); and shape themselves into Doric and Ionic pillars, squared ashlar houses, and noble streets? Was it not the still higher Orpheus, or Orpheuses, who, in past [280 centuries, by the divine Music of Wisdom, succeeded in civilizing man? Our highest Orpheus walked in Judea, eighteen hundred years ago: his sphere-melody, flowing in wild native tones, took captive the ravished souls of men; and, being of a truth sphere-melody, still flows and sounds, though now with thousandfold accomplishments, and rich symphonies, through all our hearts; and modulates, and divinely [290 leads them. Is that a wonder, which happens in two hours; and does it cease to be wonderful if happening in two million?

Not only was Thebes built by the music of an Orpheus; but without the music of some inspired Orpheus was no city ever built, no work that man glories in ever done.

"Sweep away the Illusion of Time; glance, if thou have eyes, from the near moving-cause to its far-distant Mover: [300 The stroke that came transmitted through a whole galaxy of elastic balls, was it less a stroke than if the last ball only had been struck, and sent flying? Oh, could I (with the Time-annihilating Hat) transport thee direct from the Beginnings to the Endings, how were thy eyesight unsealed, and thy heart set flaming in the Light-sea of celestial wonder! Then sawest thou that this fair Universe, [310 were it in the meanest province thereof, is in very deed the star-domed City of God; that through every star, through every grass-blade, and most through every Living Soul, the glory of a present God still beams. But Nature, which is the Time-vesture of God, and reveals Him to the wise, hides Him from the foolish.

"Again, could anything be more miraculous than an actual authentic Ghost? [320 The English Johnson longed, all his life, to see one; but could not, though he went to Cock Lane, and thence to the church-vaults, and tapped on coffins. Foolish Doctor! Did he never, with the mind's eye as well as with the body's, look round him into that full tide of human Life he so loved; did he never so much as look into Himself? The good Doctor was a Ghost, as actual and authentic as [330 heart could wish; well-nigh a million of Ghosts were travelling the streets by his side. Once more I say, sweep away the illusion of Time; compress the threescore years into three minutes: what else was he, what else are we? Are we not Spirits, that are shaped into a body, into an Appearance; and that fade away again into air, and Invisibility? This is no metaphor, it is a simple scientific *fact*; we [340 start out of Nothingness, take figure, and are Apparitions; round us, as round the veriest spectre, is Eternity; and to Eternity minutes are as years and æons. Come there not tones of Love and Faith, as from celestial harp-strings, like the Song of beatified Souls? And again, do not we

squeak and gibber (in our discordant, screech-owlish debates and recriminations); and glide bodeful and feeble, [350 and fearful; or uproar (*poltern*), and revel in our mad Dance of the Dead,—till the scent of the morning-air summons us to our still Home; and dreamy Night becomes awake and Day? Where now is Alexander of Macedon: does the steel Host, that yelled in fierce battle-shouts, at Issus and Arbela, remain behind him; or have they all vanished utterly, even as perturbed Goblins must? Napoleon [360 too, and his Moscow Retreats and Austerlitz Campaigns! Was it all other than the veriest Spectre-hunt; which has now, with its howling tumult that made night hideous, flitted away?—Ghosts! There are nigh a thousand million walking the Earth openly at noontide; some half-hundred have vanished from it, some half-hundred have arisen in it, ere thy watch ticks once. [370

“O Heaven, it is mysterious, it is awful to consider that we not only carry each a future Ghost within him; but are, in very deed, Ghosts! These Limbs, whence had we them; this stormy Force; this life-blood with its burning Passion? They are dust and shadow; a Shadow-system gathered round our ME; wherein through some moments or years, the Divine Essence is to be revealed in the [380 Flesh. That warrior on his strong war-horse, fire flashes through his eyes; force dwells in his arm and heart; but warrior and war-horse are a vision; a revealed Force, nothing more. Stately they tread the Earth, as if it were a firm substance: fool! the Earth is but a film; it cracks in twain, and warrior and war-horse sink beyond plummet’s sounding. Plummet’s? Fantasy herself will not follow them. [390 A little while ago they were not; a little while and they are not, their very ashes are not.

“So has it been from the beginning, so will it be to the end. Generation after generation takes to itself the Form of a Body; and forth-issuing from Cimmerian Night, on Heaven’s mission APPEARS. What Force and Fire is in each he expends: one grinding in the mill of In- [400 dustry; one hunter-like climbing the

giddy Alpine heights of Science; one madly dashed in pieces on the rocks of Strife, in war with his fellow:—and then the Heaven-sent is recalled; his earthly Vesture falls away, and soon even to Sense becomes a Vanished Shadow. Thus, like some wild-flaming, wild-thundering train of Heaven’s Artillery, does this mysterious MANKIND thunder and [410 flame, in long-drawn, quick-succeeding grandeur, through the unknown Deep. Thus, like a God-created, fire-breathing Spirit-host, we emerge from the Inane; haste stormfully across the astonished Earth; then plunge again into the Inane. Earth’s mountains are levelled, and her seas filled up, in our passage: can the Earth, which is but dead and a vision, resist Spirits which have reality and [420 are alive? On the hardest adamant some footprint of us is stamped-in; the last Rear of the host will read traces of the earliest Van. But whence?—O Heaven, whither? Sense knows not; Faith knows not; only that it is through Mystery to Mystery, from God and to God.

‘We are such stuff

As Dreams are made on, and our little
Life [430
Is rounded with a sleep!’”

From PAST AND PRESENT

Book III, Chapter XI

LABOR

For there is a perennial nobleness, and even sacredness, in Work. Were he never so benighted, forgetful of his high calling, there is always hope in a man that actually and earnestly works: in Idleness alone is there perpetual despair. Work, never so Mammonish, mean, *is* in communication with Nature; the real desire to get Work done will itself lead one more and more to truth, to Nature’s ap- [10 pointments and regulations, which are truth.

The latest Gospel in this world is, Know thy work and do it. “Know thyself”: long enough has that poor “self” of thine tormented thee; thou wilt never

get to "know" it, I believe! Think it not thy business, this of knowing thyself; thou art an unknowable individual: know what thou canst work at; and work [20 at it, like a Hercules! That will be thy better plan.

It has been written, "an endless significance lies in Work"; a man perfects himself by working. Foul jungles are cleared away, fair seedfields rise instead, and stately cities; and withal the man himself first ceases to be a jungle and foul unwholesome desert thereby. Consider how, even in the meanest sorts of [30 Labor, the whole soul of a man is composed into a kind of real harmony, the instant he sets himself to work! Doubt, Desire, Sorrow, Remorse, Indignation, Despair itself, all these like hell-dogs lie beleaguering the soul of the poor day-worker as of every man: but he bends himself with free valor against his task, and all these are stilled, all these shrink murmuring far off into their caves. [40 The man is now a man. The blessed glow of Labor in him, is it not as purifying fire, wherein all poison is burnt up, and of sour smoke itself there is made bright blessed flame!

Destiny, on the whole, has no other way of cultivating us. A formless Chaos, once set it *revolving*, grows round and ever rounder; ranges itself, by mere force of gravity, into strata, spherical [50 courses; is no longer a Chaos, but a round compacted World. What would become of the Earth, did she cease to revolve? In the poor old Earth, so long as she revolves, all inequalities, irregularities disperse themselves; all irregularities are incessantly becoming regular. Hast thou looked on the Potter's wheel,—one of the venerablest objects; old as the Prophet Ezekiel and far older? Rude lumps of [60 clay, how they spin themselves up, by mere quick whirling, into beautiful circular dishes. And fancy the most assiduous Potter, but without his wheel; reduced to make dishes, or rather amorphous botches, by mere kneading and baking! Even such a Potter were Destiny, with a human soul that would rest and lie at ease, that would not work and spin! Of an idle unrevolving man [70

the kindest Destiny, like the most assiduous Potter without wheel, can bake and knead nothing other than a botch; let her spend on him what expensive coloring, what gilding and enamelling she will, he is but a botch. Not a dish; no, a bulging, kneaded, crooked, shambling, squint-cornered, amorphous botch,—a mere enamelled vessel of dishonor! Let the idle think of this. [80

Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessedness. He has a work, a life-purpose; he has found it, and will follow it! How, as a free-flowing channel, dug and torn by noble force through the sour mud-swamp of one's existence, like an ever-deepening river there, it runs and flows;—draining-off the sour festering water, gradually from the root of the remotest grass- [90 blade; making, instead of pestilential swamp, a green fruitful meadow with its clear-flowing stream. How blessed for the meadow itself, let the stream and *its* value be great or small! Labor is Life; from the inmost heart of the Worker rises his god-given Force, the sacred celestial Life-essence breathed into him by Almighty God; from his inmost heart awakens him to all nobleness,—to all knowledge, [100 "self-knowledge" and much else, so soon as Work fitly begins. Knowledge? The knowledge that will hold good in working, cleave thou to that; for Nature herself accredits that, says Yea to that. Properly thou hast no other knowledge but what thou hast got by working: the rest is yet all a hypothesis of knowledge; a thing to be argued of in schools, a thing floating in the clouds, in endless logic-vortices, [110 till we try it and fix it. "Doubt, of whatever kind, can be ended by Action alone."

And again, hast thou valued Patience, Courage, Perseverance, Openness to light; readiness to own thyself mistaken, to do better next time? All these, all virtues, in wrestling with the dim brute Powers of Fact, in ordering of thy fellows in such wrestle, there and elsewhere not at all, thou wilt continually learn. [120 Set down a brave Sir Christopher in the middle of black ruined Stone-heaps, of foolish unarchitectural Bishops, red-tape

Officials; idle Nell-Gwyn Defenders of the Faith; and see whether he will ever raise a Paul's Cathedral out of all that, yea or no! Rough, rude, contradictory are all things and persons, from the mutinous masons and Irish hodmen, up to the idle Nell-Gwyn Defenders, to blustering red-tape Officials, foolish unarchitectural Bishops. All these things and persons are there not for Christopher's sake and his Cathedral's; they are there for their own sake mainly! Christopher will have to conquer and constrain all these,—if he be able. All these are against him. Equitable Nature herself, who carries her mathematics and architectonics not on the face of her, but deep in the hidden heart of her,—Nature herself is but partially for him; will be wholly against him, if he constrain her not! His very money, where is it to come from? The pious munificence of England lies far-scattered, distant, unable to speak, and say, "I am here";—must be spoken to before it can speak. Pious munificence, and all help, is so silent, invisible like the gods; impediment, contradictions manifold, are so loud and near! O brave Sir Christopher, trust thou in those notwithstanding, and front all these; understand all these; by valiant patience, noble effort, insight, by man's strength, vanquish and compel all these,—and, on the whole, strike down victoriously the last topstone of that Paul's Edifice; thy monument for certain centuries, the stamp "Great Man" impressed very legibly on Portland-stone there!—

Yes, all manner of help, and pious response from Men or Nature, is always what we call silent; cannot speak or come to light, till it be seen, till it be spoken to. Every noble work is at first "impossible." In very truth, for every noble work the possibilities will lie diffused through Immensity; inarticulate, undiscoverable except to faith. Like Gideon thou shalt spread out thy fleece at the door of thy tent; see whether under the wide arch of Heaven there be any bounteous moisture, or none. Thy heart and life-purpose shall be as a miraculous Gideon's fleece, spread out in silent appeal to Heaven: and from the kind Immensi-

ties, what from the poor unkind Localities and town and country Parishes there never could, blessed dew-moisture to suffice thee shall have fallen!

Work is of a religious nature:—work is of a *brave* nature; which it is the aim of all religion to be. All work of man is as the swimmer's: a waste ocean threatens to devour him; if he front it not bravely, it will keep its word. By incessant wise defiance of it, lusty rebuke and buffet of it, behold how it loyally supports him, bears him as its conqueror along. "It is so," says Goethe, "with all things that man undertakes in this world."

Brave Sea-captain, Norse Sea-king,—Columbus, my hero, royalest Sea-king of all! it is no friendly environment this of thine, in the waste deep waters; around thee mutinous discouraged souls, behind thee disgrace and ruin, before thee the unpenetrated veil of Night. Brother, these wild water-mountains, bounding from their deep bases (ten miles deep, I am told), are not entirely there on thy behalf! Meseems *they* have other work than floating thee forward:—and the huge Winds, that sweep from Ursa Major to the Tropics, and Equators, dancing their giant-waltz through the kingdoms of Chaos and Immensity, they care little about filling rightly or filling wrongly the small shoulder-of-mutton sails in this cockle-skiff of thine! Thou art not among articulate-speaking friends, my brother; thou art among immeasurable dumb monsters, tumbling, howling wide as the world here. Secret, far off, invisible to all hearts but thine, there lies a help in them: see how thou wilt get at that. Patiently thou wilt wait till the mad Southwester spend itself, saving thyself by dextrous science of defence, the while: valiantly, with swift decision, wilt thou strike in, when the favoring East, the Possible, springs up. Mutiny of men thou wilt sternly repress; weakness, despondency, thou wilt cheerily encourage: thou wilt swallow down complaint, unreason, weariness, weakness of others and thyself;—how much wilt thou swallow down! There shall be a depth of Silence in thee, deeper than this Sea, which is but ten miles deep: a Silence unsoundable;

known to God only. Thou shalt be a Great Man. Yes, my World-Soldier, thou of the World Marine-service,—thou wilt have to be *greater* than this tumultuous unmeasured World here round thee is; thou, in thy strong soul, as with wrestler's arms, shalt embrace it, harness it down; and make it bear thee on,—to new Americas, or whither God wills! [240

Chapter XII

REWARD

"Religion," I said; for, properly speaking, all true Work is Religion: and whatsoever Religion is not Work may go and dwell among the Brahmins, Antinomians, Spinning Dervishes, or where it will; with me it shall have no harbor. Admirable was that of the old Monks, "*Laborare est Orare*, Work is Worship."

Older than all preached Gospels was this unpreached, inarticulate, but in- [10 eradicable, forever-enduring Gospel: Work, and therein have wellbeing. Man, Son of Earth and of Heaven, lies there not, in the innermost heart of thee, a Spirit of active Method, a Force for Work;—and burns like a painfully-smoldering fire, giving thee no rest till thou unfold it, till thou write it down in beneficent Facts around thee! What is immethodic, waste, thou shalt make methodic, regulated, [20 arable; obedient and productive to thee. Wheresoever thou findest Disorder, there is thy eternal enemy; attack him swiftly, subdue him; make Order of him, the subject not of Chaos, but of Intelligence, Divinity, and Thee! The thistle that grows in thy path, dig it out, that a blade of useful grass, a drop of nourishing milk, may grow there instead. The waste cotton-shrub, gather its waste white [30 down, spin it, weave it; that, in place of idle litter, there may be folded webs, and the naked skin of man be covered.

But above all, where thou findest Ignorance, Stupidity, Brute-mindedness,—yes, there, with or without Church-tithes and Shovel-hat, with or without Talfourd-Mahon copyrights, or were it with mere dungeons and gibbets and crosses, attack it, I say; smite it wisely, unweariedly, [40 and rest not while thou livest and it lives;

but smite, smite, in the name of God! The Highest God, as I understand it, does audibly so command thee; still audibly, if thou have ears to hear. He, even He, with his *unspoken* voice, awfuller than any Sinai thunders or syllabled speech of Whirlwinds; for the SILENCE of deep Eternities, of Worlds from beyond the morning-stars, does it not [50 speak to thee? The unborn Ages; the old Graves, with their long-moldering dust, the very tears that wetted it now all dry,—do not these speak to thee, what ear hath not heard? The deep Death-kingdoms, the Stars in their never-resting courses, all Space and all Time, proclaim it to thee in continual silent admonition. Thou too, if ever man should, shalt work while it is called To-day. For the [60 Night cometh, wherein no man can work.

All true Work is sacred; in all true Work, were it but true hand-labor, there is something of divineness. Labor, wide as the Earth, has its summit in Heaven. Sweat of the brow; and up from that to sweat of the brain, sweat of the heart; which includes all Kepler calculations, Newton meditations, all Sciences, all spoken Epics, all acted Heroisms, [70 Martyrdoms,—up to that "Agony of bloody sweat," which all men have called divine! O brother, if this is not "worship," then I say, the more pity for worship; for this is the noblest thing yet discovered under God's sky. Who art thou that complainest of thy life of toil? Complain not. Look up, my wearied brother; see thy fellow Workmen there, in God's Eternity; surviving there, [80 they alone surviving: sacred Band of the Immortals, celestial Bodyguard of the Empire of Mankind. Even in the weak Human Memory they survive so long, as saints, as heroes, as gods; they alone surviving; peopling, they alone, the unmeasured solitudes of Time! To thee Heaven, though severe, is *not* unkind: Heaven is kind,—as a noble Mother; as that Spartan Mother, saying while [90 she gave her son his shield, "With it, my son, or upon it!" Thou too shalt return *home* in honor; to thy far-distant Home, in honor; doubt it not,—if in the battle thou keep thy shield! Thou, in the

Eternities and deepest Death-kingdoms, art not an alien; thou everywhere art a denizen! Complain not; the very Spartans did not *complain*.

And who art thou that braggest of [100 thy life of Idleness; complacently showest thy bright gilt equipages; sumptuous cushions; appliances for folding of the hands to mere sleep? Looking up, looking down, around, behind or before, discernest thou, if it be not in Mayfair alone, any *idle* hero, saint, god, or even devil? Not a vestige of one. In the Heavens, in the Earth, in the Waters under the Earth, is none like unto thee. Thou art an [110 original figure in this Creation; a denizen in Mayfair alone, in this extraordinary Century or Half-Century alone! One monster there is in the world: the idle man. What is his "Religion"? That Nature is a Phantasm, where cunning beggary or thievery may sometimes find good victual. That God is a lie; and that Man and his Life are a lie.—Alas, alas, who of us *is* there that can say, I [120 have worked? The faithfulest of us are unprofitable servants; the faithfulest of us know that best. The faithfulest of us may say, with sad and true old Samuel, "Much of my life has been trifled away!" But he that has, and except "on public occasions" professes to have, no function but that of going idle in a graceful or graceless manner; and of begetting sons to go idle; and to address Chief Spin- [130 ners and Diggers, who at least *are* spinning and digging, "Ye scandalous persons who produce too much"—My Corn-Law friends, on what imaginary still richer Eldorados, and true iron-spikes with law of gravitation, are ye rushing!

As to the Wages of Work there might innumerable things be said; there will and must yet innumerable things be said and spoken, in St. Stephen's and out [140 of St. Stephen's; and gradually not a few things be ascertained and written, on Law-parchment, concerning this very matter:—"Fair day's-wages for a fair day's-work" is the most unrefusable demand! Money-wages "to the extent of keeping your worker alive that he may work more:" these, unless you mean to dismiss him straightway out of this world,

are indispensable alike to the noblest [150 Worker and to the least noble:

One thing only I will say here, in special reference to the former class, the noble and noblest; but throwing light on all the other classes and their arrangements of this difficult matter: The "wages" of every noble Work do yet lie in Heaven or else Nowhere. Not in Bank-of-England bills, in Owen's Labor-bank, or any the most improved establishment [160 of banking and money-changing, needest thou, heroic soul, present thy account of earnings. Human banks and labor-banks know thee not; or know thee after generations and centuries have passed away, and thou art clean gone from "rewarding,"—all manner of bank-drafts, shop-tills, and Downing-street Exchequers lying very invisible, so far from thee! Nay, at bottom, dost thou need any [170 reward? Was it thy aim and life-purpose to be filled with good things for thy heroism; to have a life of pomp and ease, and be what men call "happy," in this world, or in any other world? I answer for thee deliberately, No. The whole spiritual secret of the new epoch lies in this, that thou canst answer for thyself, with thy whole clearness of head and heart, deliberately, No! [180

My brother, the brave man has to give his Life away. Give it, I advise thee;—thou dost not expect to *sell* thy Life in an adequate manner? What price, for example, would content thee? The just price of thy LIFE to thee,—why, God's entire Creation to thyself, the whole Universe of Space, the whole Eternity of Time, and what they hold: that is the price which would content thee; that, [190 and if thou wilt be candid, nothing short of that! It is thy all; and for it thou wouldst have all. Thou art an unreasonable mortal;—or rather thou art a poor *infinite* mortal, who, in thy narrow clay-prison here, *seemest* so unreasonable! Thou wilt never sell thy Life, or any part of thy Life, in a satisfactory manner. Give it, like a royal heart; let the price be Nothing; thou *hast* then, in a certain [200 sense, got All for it! The heroic man,—and is not every man, God be thanked, a potential hero?—has to do so, in all

times and circumstances. In the most heroic age, as in the most unheroic, he will have to say, as Burns said proudly and humbly of his little Scottish Songs, little dewdrops of Celestial Melody in an age when so much was unmelodious: "By Heaven, they shall either be in- [210] valuable or of no value; I do not need your guineas for them." It is an element which should, and must, enter deeply into all settlements of wages here below. They never will be "satisfactory" otherwise; they cannot, O Mammon Gospel, they never can! Money for my little piece of work "to the extent that will allow me to keep working;" yes, this,—unless you mean that I shall go my [220] ways *before* the work is all taken out of me: but as to "wages"—!

On the whole, we do entirely agree with those old Monks, *Laborare est Orare*. In a thousand senses, from one end of it to the other, true Work is Worship. He that works, whatsoever be his work, he bodies forth the form of Things Unseen; a small Poet every Worker is. The idea, were it but of his [230] poor Delf Platter, how much more of his Epic Poem, is as yet "seen," half-seen, only by himself; to all others it is a thing unseen, impossible; to Nature herself it is a thing unseen, a thing which never hitherto was;—very "impossible," for it is as yet a No-thing! The Unseen Powers had need to watch over such a man; he works in and for the Unseen. Alas, if he look to the Seen Powers [240] only, he may as well quit the business; his No-thing will never rightly issue as a Thing, but as a Deceptivity, a Sham-thing,—which it had better not do!

Thy No-thing of an Intended Poem, O Poet who hast looked merely to reviewers, copyrights, booksellers, popularities, behold it has not yet become a Thing; for the truth is not in it! Though printed, hotpressed, reviewed, celebrated, sold [250] to the twentieth edition: what is all that? The Thing, in philosophical uncommercial language, is still a No-thing, mostly semblance and deception of the sight;—benign Oblivion incessantly gnawing at it, impatient till Chaos, to which it belongs, do reabsorb it!—

He who takes not counsel of the Unseen and Silent, from him will never come real visibility and speech. Thou [260] must descend to the *Mothers*, to the *Manes*, and Hercules-like long suffer and labor there, wouldst thou emerge with victory into the sunlight. As in battle and the shock of war,—for is not this a battle?—thou too shalt fear no pain or death, shalt love no ease or life; the voice of festive Lubberlands, the noise of greedy Acheron, shall alike lie silent under thy victorious feet. Thy work, like Dante's, shall [270] "make thee lean for many years." The world and its wages, its criticisms, counsels, helps, impediments, shall be as a waste ocean-flood; the chaos through which thou art to swim and sail. Not the waste waves and their weedy gulfs-streams, shalt thou take for guidance: thy star alone,—"*Se tu segui tua stellal*" Thy star alone, now clear-beaming over Chaos, nay now by fits gone out, dis- [280] astrously eclipsed: this only shalt thou strive to follow. O, it is a business, as I fancy, that of weltering your way through Chaos and the murk of Hell, Green-eyed dragons watching you, three-headed Cerberuses,—not without sympathy of their sort! "*Eccovi l' uom ch' è stato all' Inferno*." For in fine, as Poet Dryden says, you do walk hand in hand with sheer Madness, all the way,— [290] who is by no means pleasant company! You look fixedly into Madness, and *her* undiscovered, boundless, bottomless Night-empire; that you may extort new Wisdom out of it, as an Eurydice from Tartarus. The higher the Wisdom, the closer was its neighborhood and kindred with mere Insanity; literally so;—and thou wilt, with a speechless feeling, observe how highest Wisdom, struggling up into this world, [300] has oftentimes carried such tinctures and adhesions of Insanity still cleaving to it hither!

All Works, each in their degree, are a making of Madness sane;—truly enough a religious operation; which cannot be carried on without religion. You have not work otherwise; you have eye-service, greedy grasping of wages, swift and ever swifter manufacture of semblances [310] to get hold of wages. Instead of better

felt-hats to cover your head, you have bigger lath-and-plaster hats set traveling the streets on wheels. Instead of heavenly and earthly Guidance for the souls of men, you have "Black or White Surplice" Controversies, stuffed hair-and-leather Popes;—terrestrial *Law-wards*, Lords and Law-bringers, "organizing Labor" in these years, by passing [320] Corn-Laws. With all which, alas, this distracted Earth is now full, nigh to bursting. Semblances most smooth to the touch and eye; most accursed, nevertheless, to body and soul. Semblances, be they of Sham-woven Cloth or of Dilettante Legislation, which are *not* real wool or substance, but Devil's-dust, accursed of God and man! No man has worked, or can work, except religiously; not even the poor day-laborer, the weaver of your coat, the sewer of your shoes. All men, if they work not as in a Great Taskmaster's eye, will work wrong, work unhappily for themselves and you.

Industrial work, still under bondage to Mammon, the rational soul of it not yet awakened, is a tragic spectacle. Men in the rapidest motion and self-motion; restless, with convulsive energy, as if [340] driven by Galvanism, as if possessed by a Devil; tearing asunder mountains,—to no purpose, for Mammonism is always Midas-eared! This is sad, on the face of it. Yet courage: the beneficent Destinies, kind in their sternness, are apprising us that this cannot continue. Labor is not a devil, even while encased in Mammonism; Labor is ever an imprisoned god, writhing unconsciously or consciously to escape out of Mammonism! Plugson of Undershot, like Taillefer of Normandy, wants victory; how much happier will even Plugson be to have a Chivalrous victory than a Choctaw one! The unredeemed ugliness is that of a slothful People. Show me a People energetically busy; heaving, struggling, all shoulders at the wheel; their heart pulsing, every muscle swelling, with [360] man's energy and will;—I show you a People of whom great good is already predicable; to whom all manner of good is yet certain, if their energy endure. By very working, they will learn; they

have, Antæus-like, their foot on Mother Fact: how can they but learn?

The vulgarest Plugson of a Master-Worker, who can command Workers, and get work out of them, is already [370] a considerable man. Blessed and thrice-blessed symptoms I discern of Master-Workers who are not vulgar men; who are Nobles, and begin to feel that they must act as such: all speed to these, they are England's hope at present! But in this Plugson himself, conscious of almost no nobleness whatever, how much is there! Not without man's faculty, insight, courage, hard energy, is this [380] rugged figure. His words none of the wisest; but his actings cannot be altogether foolish. Think, how were it, stoodst thou suddenly in his shoes! He has to command a thousand men. And not imaginary commanding; no, it is real, incessantly practical. The evil passions of so many men (with the Devil in them, as in all of us) he has to vanquish; by manifold force of speech and of silence, [390] to repress or evade. What a force of silence, to say nothing of the others, is in Plugson! For these his thousand men he has to provide raw-material, machinery, arrangement, houseroom; and ever at the week's end, wages by due sale. No Civil-List, or Goulburn-Baring Budget has he to fall back upon, for paying of his regiment; he has to pick his supplies from the confused face of the whole [400] Earth and Contemporaneous History, by his dexterity alone. There will be dry eyes if he fail to do it!—He exclaims, at present, "black in the face," near strangled with Dilettante Legislation: "Let me have elbow-room, throat-room, and I will not fail! No, I will spin yet, and conquer like a giant: what 'sinews of war' lie in me, untold resources towards the Conquest of this Planet, if, [410] instead of hanging me, you husband them, and help me!"—My indomitable friend, it is *true*; and thou shalt and must be helped.

This is not a man I would kill and strangle by Corn-Laws, even if I could! No, I would fling my Corn-Laws and shot-belts to the Devil; and try to help this man. I would teach him, by noble

precept and law-precept, by noble [420 example most of all, that Mammonism was not the essence of his or of my station in God's Universe; but the adscititious excrescence of it; the gross, terrene, godless embodiment of it; which would have to become, more or less, a godlike one. By noble *real* legislation, by true, *noble's*-work, by unwearied, valiant, and were it wageless effort, in my Parliament and in my Parish, I would aid, con- [430 strain, encourage him to effect more or less this blessed change. I should know that it would have to be effected; that unless it were in some measure effected, he and I and all of us, I first and soonest of all, were doomed to perdition!—Effected it will be; unless it were a Demon that made this Universe; which I, for my own part, do at no moment, under no form, in the least believe. [440

May it please your Serene Highnesses, your Majesties, Lordships and Law-wardships, the proper Epic of this world is not now "Arms and the Man", how much less, "Shirt-frills and the Man": no, it is now "Tools and the Man": that, henceforth to all time, is now our Epic;—and you, first of all others, I think, were wise to take note of that!

From CROMWELL'S LETTERS AND SPEECHES

THE BATTLE OF DUNBAR

"The Lord General about four o'clock," say the old Pamphlets, "went into the Town to take some refreshment," a hasty late dinner, or early supper, whichever we may call it; "and very soon returned back,"—having written Sir Arthur's Letter, I think, in the interim. Coursing about the field, with enough of things to order; walking at last with Lambert in the Park or Garden of Brocksmouth [10 House, he discerns that Lesley is astrir on the Hillside; altering his position somewhat. That Lesley, in fact, is coming wholly down to the basis of the Hill, where his horse had been since sunrise: coming wholly down to the edge of the Brook and glen, among the sloping harvest-fields there; and also is bringing up his left

wing of horse, most part of it, towards his right; edging himself, "shogging," [20 as Oliver calls it, his whole line more and more to the right! His meaning is, to get hold of Brocksmouth House and the pass of the Brook there; after which it will be free to him to attack us when he will!—Lesley, in fact, considers, or at least the Committee of Estates and Kirk consider, that Oliver is lost; that, on the whole, he must not be left to retreat, but must be attacked and annihilated [30 here. A vague story, due to Bishop Burnet, the watery source of many such, still circulates about the world, That it was the Kirk Committee who forced Lesley down against his will; that Oliver, at sight of it, exclaimed, "The Lord hath delivered," etc.; which nobody is in the least bound to believe. It appears, from other quarters, that Lesley *was* advised or sanctioned in this attempt by the [40 Committee of Estates and Kirk, but also that he was by no means hard to advise; that, in fact, lying on the top of Doon Hill, shelterless in such weather, was no operation to spin out beyond necessity;—and that if anybody pressed too much upon him with advice to come down and fight, it was likeliest to be Royalist Civil Dignitaries, who had plagued him with their cavilings at his cunctations, [50 at his "secret fellow-feeling for the Sectarians and Regicides" ever since this war began. The poor Scotch Clergy have enough of their own to answer for in this business; let every back bear the burden that belongs to it. In a word, Lesley descends, has been descending all day, and "shogs" himself to the right,—urged, I believe, by manifold counsel, and by the nature of the case; and, [60 what is equally important for us, Oliver sees him, and sees through him, in this movement of his.

At the sight of this movement, Oliver suggests to Lambert standing by him, Does it not give *us* an advantage, if we, instead of him, like to begin the attack? Here is the Enemy's right wing coming out to the open space, free to be attacked on any side; and the main-battle, [70 hampered in narrow sloping ground between Doon Hill and the Brook, has no

room to maneuver or assist: beat this right wing where it now stands; take it in flank and front with an overpowering force,—it is driven upon its own main-battle, the whole Army is beaten? Lambert eagerly assents, “had meant to say the same thing.” Monk, who comes up at this moment, likewise assents; as [80 the other officers do, when the case is set before them. It is the plan resolved upon for battle. The attack shall begin tomorrow before dawn.

And so the soldiers stand to their arms, or lie within instant reach of their arms, all night; being upon an engagement very difficult indeed. The night is wild and wet;—2d of September means 12th by our calendar: the Harvest [90 Moon wades deep among clouds of sleet and hail. Whoever has a heart for prayer, let him pray now, for the wrestle of death is at hand. Pray,—and withal keep his powder dry! And be ready for extremities, and quit himself like a man!—Thus they pass the night; making that Dunbar Peninsula and Brock Rivulet long memorable to me. We English have some tents; the Scots have [100 none. The hoarse sea moans bodeful, swinging low and heavy against these whinstone bays; the sea and the tempests are abroad, all else asleep but we,—and there is One that rides on the wings of the wind.

Towards three in the morning the Scotch foot, by order of a Major-General say some, extinguish their matches, all but two in a company; cower under [110 the corn-shocks, seeking some imperfect shelter and sleep. Be wakeful, ye English; watch, and pray, and keep your powder dry. About four o’clock comes order to my pudding-headed Yorkshire friend, that his regiment must mount and march straightway; his and various other regiments march, pouring swiftly to the left to Brocksmouth House, to the Pass over the Brock. With over- [120 powering force let us storm the Scots right wing there; beat that, and all is beaten. Major Hodgson riding along, heard, he says, “a Cornet praying in the night;” a company of poor men, I think, making worship there, under the void

Heaven, before battle joined: Major Hodgson, giving his charge to a brother Officer, turned aside to listen for a minute, and worship and pray along [130 with them; haply his last prayer on this Earth, as it might prove to be. But no: this Cornet prayed with such effusion as was wonderful; and imparted strength to my Yorkshire friend, who strengthened his men by telling them of it. And the Heavens, in their mercy, I think, have opened us a way of deliverance!—The Moon gleams out, hard and blue, riding among hail-clouds; and over St. Abb’s [140 Head a streak of dawn is rising.

And now is the hour when the attack should be, and no Lambert is yet here, he is ordering the line far to the right yet; and Oliver occasionally, in Hodgson’s hearing, is impatient for him. The Scots too, on this wing, are awake; thinking to surprise us; there is their trumpet sounding, we heard it once; and Lambert, who was to lead the attack, is [150 not here. The Lord General is impatient;—behold Lambert at last! The trumpets peal, shattering with fierce clangor Night’s silence; the cannons awaken along all the Line: “The Lord of Hosts! The Lord of Hosts!” On, my brave ones, on!—

The dispute “on this right wing was hot and stiff, for three quarters of an hour.” Plenty of fire, from field- [160 pieces, snap-hances, matchlocks, entertains the Scotch main-battle across the Brock;—poor stiffened men, roused from the corn-shocks with their matches all out! But here on the right, their horse, “with lancers in the front rank,” charge desperately; drive us back across the hollow of the Rivulet;—back a little; but the Lord gives us courage, and we storm home again, horse and foot, [170 upon them, with a shock like tornado tempests; break them, beat them, drive them all adrift. “Some fled towards Copperspath, but most across their own foot.” Their own poor foot, whose matches were hardly well alight yet! Poor men, it was a terrible awakening for them: field-pieces and charge of foot across the Brocksburn; and now here is their own horse in mad panic tramp- [180

ling them to death. Above three thousand killed upon the place: "I never saw such a charge of foot and horse," says one; nor did I. Oliver was still near to Yorkshire Hodgson where the shock succeeded; Hodgson heard him say, "They run, I profess they run!" And over St. Abb's Head and the German Ocean, just then, bursts the first gleam of the level Sun upon us, "and I heard Nol say, in [190 the words of the Psalmist, 'Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered,'"—or in Rous's meter—

"Let God arise, and scattered
Let all his enemies be;
And let all those that do him hate
Before his presence flee!"

Even so. The Scotch Army is shivered to utter ruin; rushes in tumultuous wreck, hither, thither; to Belhaven, or, in [200 their distraction, even to Dunbar; the chase goes as far as Haddington; led by Hacker. "The Lord general made a halt," says Hodgson, "and sang the Hundred-and-seventeenth Psalm," till our horse could gather for the chase. Hundred-and-seventeenth Psalm, at the foot of Doon Hill; there we uplift it, to the tune of Bangor, or some still higher score, and roll it strong and great against the [210 sky:—

"Oh give ye praise unto the Lord,
All nati-ons that be;
Likewise ye people all, accord
His name to magnify!
For great to-us-ward ever are
His loving-kindnesses;
His truth endures for evermore:
The Lord oh do ye bless!"

And now, to the chase again. [220

JOHN RUSKIN (1819-1900)

From MODERN PAINTERS

SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN THE ALPS

Stand upon the peak of some isolated mountain at daybreak, when the night mists first rise from off the plains, and watch their white and lake-like fields, as they float in level bays and winding gulfs

about the islanded summits of the lower hills, untouched yet by more than dawn, colder and more quiet than a windless sea under the moon of midnight; watch when the first sunbeam is sent upon [10 the silver channels, how the foam of their undulating surface parts and passes away, and down under their depths the glittering city and green pasture lie like Atlantis, between the white paths of winding rivers; the flakes of light falling every moment faster and broader among the starry spires, as the wreathed surges break and vanish above them, and the confused crests and ridges of the dark hills shorten their [20 gray shadows upon the plain. . . . Wait a little longer, and you shall see those scattered mists rallying in the ravines, and floating up towards you, along the winding valleys, till they crouch in quiet masses, iridescent with the morning light, upon the broad breasts of the higher hills, whose leagues of massy undulation will melt back and back into that robe of material light, until they fade away, [30 lost in its lustre, to appear again above, in the serene heaven, like a wild, bright, impossible dream, foundationless and inaccessible, their very bases vanishing in the unsubstantial and mocking blue of the deep lake below. . . . Wait yet a little longer, and you shall see those mists gather themselves into white towers, and stand like fortresses along the promontories, massy and motionless, [40 only piled with every instant higher and higher into the sky, and casting longer shadows athwart the rocks; and out of the pale blue of the horizon you will see forming and advancing a troop of narrow, dark, pointed vapors, which will cover the sky, inch by inch, with their gray network, and take the light off the landscape with an eclipse which will stop the singing of the birds and the mo- [50 tion of the leaves, together; and then you will see horizontal bars of black shadow forming under them, and lurid wreaths create themselves, you know not how, along the shoulders of the hills; you never see them form, but when you look back to a place which was clear an instant ago, there is a cloud on it, hanging by the precipices, as a hawk pauses over

his prey. . . . And then you will [60 hear the sudden rush of the awakened wind, and you will see those watch-towers of vapor swept away from their foundations, and waving curtains of opaque rain let down to the valleys, swinging from the burdened clouds in black bending fringes, or pacing in pale columns along the lake level, grazing its surface into foam as they go. And then, as the sun sinks, you shall see the storm drift for [70 an instant from off the hills, leaving their broad sides smoking, and loaded yet with snow-white, torn, steam-like rags of capricious vapor, now gone, now gathered again; while the smouldering sun, seeming not far away, but burning like a red-hot ball beside you, and as if you could reach it, plunges through the rushing wind and rolling cloud with headlong fall, as if it meant to rise no more, [80 dyeing all the air about it with blood. . . . And then you shall hear the fainting tempest die in the hollow of the night, and you shall see a green halo kindling on the summit of the eastern hills, brighter—brighter yet, till the large white circle of the slow moon is lifted up among the barred clouds, step by step, line by line; star after star she quenches with her kindling light, setting in their stead [90 an army of pale, impenetrable, fleecy wreaths in the heaven, to give light upon the earth, which move together, hand in hand, company by company, troop by troop, so measured in their unity of motion, that the whole heaven seems to roll with them, and the earth to reel under them. . . . And then wait yet for one hour, until the east again becomes purple, and the heaving mountains, [100 rolling against it in darkness, like waves of a wild sea, are drowned one by one in the glory of its burning; watch the white glaciers blaze in their winding paths about the mountains, like mighty serpents with scales of fire: watch the columnar peaks of solitary snow, kindling downwards, chasm by chasm, each in itself a new morning; their long avalanches cast down in keen streams brighter than [110 the lightning, sending each his tribute of driven snow, like altar-smoke, up to the heaven; the rose-light of their silent

domes flushing that heaven about them and above them, piercing with purer light through its purple lines of lifted cloud, casting a new glory on every wreath as it passes by, until the whole heaven, one scarlet canopy, is interwoven with a roof of waving flame, and tossing, [120 vault beyond vault, as with the drifted wings of many companies of angels: and then, when you can look no more for gladness, and when you are bowed down with fear and love of the Maker and Doer of this, tell me who has best delivered this His message unto men!

THE TWO BOYHOODS

Born half-way between the mountains and the sea—that young George of Castelfranco—of the Brave Castle:—Stout George they called him, George of Georges, so goodly a boy he was—Giorgione.

Have you ever thought what a world his eyes opened on—fair, searching eyes of youth? What a world of mighty life, from those mountain roots to the shore;—of loveliest life, when he went down, [10 yet so young, to the marble city—and became himself as a fiery heart to it?

A city of marble, did I say? nay, rather a golden city, paved with emerald. For truly, every pinnacle and turret glanced or glowed, overlaid with gold, or bossed with jasper. Beneath, the unsullied sea drew in deep breathing, to and fro, its eddies of green wave. Deep-hearted, majestic, terrible as the sea,—the [20 men of Venice moved in sway of power and war; pure as her pillars of alabaster, stood her mothers and maidens; from foot to brow, all noble, walked her knights; the low bronzed gleaming of sea-rusted armor shot angrily under their blood-red mantle-folds. Fearless, faithful, patient, impenetrable, implacable,—every word a fate—sat her senate. In hope and honor, lulled by flowing of wave [30 around their isles of sacred sand, each with his name written and the cross graved at his side, lay her dead. A wonderful piece of world. Rather, itself a world. It lay along the face of the waters, no larger, as its captains saw it from their masts at evening, than a bar of sunset

that could not pass away; but for its power, it must have seemed to them as if they were sailing in the expanse of [40 heaven, and this a great planet, whose orient edge widened through ether. A world from which all ignoble care and petty thoughts were banished, with all the common and poor elements of life. No foulness, nor tumult, in those tremulous streets, that filled, or fell, beneath the moon; but rippled music of majestic change, or thrilling silence. No weak walls could rise above them; no low- [50 roofed cottage, nor straw-built shed. Only the strength as of rock, and the finished setting of stones most precious. And around them, far as the eye could reach, still the soft moving of stainless waters, proudly pure; as not the flower, so neither the thorn nor the thistle, could grow in the glancing fields. Ethereal strength of Alps, dreamlike, vanishing in high procession beyond the Torcellan [60 shore; blue islands of Paduan hills, poised in the golden west. Above, free winds and fiery clouds ranging at their will;—brightness out of the north, and balm from the south, and the stars of the evening and morning clear in the limitless light of arched heaven and circling sea.

Such was Giorgione's school—such Titian's home.

Near the south-west corner of Co- [70 vent Garden, a square brick pit or well is formed by a close-set block of houses, to the back windows of which it admits a few rays of light. Access to the bottom of it is obtained out of Maiden Lane, through a low archway and an iron gate; and if you stand long enough under the archway to accustom your eyes to the darkness you may see on the left hand a narrow door, which formerly gave [80 quiet access to a respectable barber's shop, of which the front window, looking into Maiden Lane, is still extant, filled, in this year (1860), with a row of bottles, connected, in some defunct manner, with a brewer's business. A more fashionable neighborhood, it is said, eighty years ago than now—never certainly a cheerful one—wherein a boy being born on St. George's day, 1775, began soon after [90 to take interest in the world of Covent

Garden, and put to service such spectacles of life as it afforded.

No knights to be seen there, nor, I imagine, many beautiful ladies; their costume at least disadvantageous, depending much on incumbency of hat and feather, and short waists; the majesty of men founded similarly on shoebuckles and wigs;—impressive enough when [100 Reynolds will do his best for it; but not suggestive of much ideal delight to a boy.

"Bello ovile dov' io dormii agnello"; of things beautiful, besides men and women, dusty sunbeams up or down the street on summer mornings; deep furrowed cabbage-leaves at the greengrocer's; magnificence of oranges in wheelbarrows round the corner; and Thames' shore within three minutes' race. [110

None of these things very glorious; the best, however, that England, it seems, was then able to provide for a boy of gift: who, such as they are, loves them—never, indeed, forgets them. The short waists modify to the last his visions of Greek ideal. His foregrounds had always a succulent cluster or two of greengrocery at the corners. Enchanted oranges gleam in Covent Gardens of the Hesperides; [120 and great ships go to pieces in order to scatter chests of them on the waves. That mist of early sunbeams in the London dawn crosses, many and many a time, the clearness of Italian air; and by Thames' shore, with its stranded barges and glidings of red sail, dearer to us than Lucerne lake or Venetian lagoon,—by Thames' shore we will die.

With such circumstance round [130 him in youth, let us note what necessary effects followed upon the boy. I assume him to have had Giorgione's sensibility (and more than Giorgione's, if that be possible) to color and form. I tell you farther, and this fact you may receive trustfully, that his sensibility to human affection and distress was no less keen than even his sense for natural beauty—heart-sight deep as eyesight. [140

Consequently, he attaches himself with the faithfullest child-love to everything that bears an image of the place he was born in. No matter how ugly it is,—has it anything about it like Maiden Lane,

or like Thames' shore? If so, it shall be painted for their sake. Hence, to the very close of life, Turner could endure ugliness which no one else, of the same sensibility, would have borne with [150 for an instant. Dead brick walls, blank square windows, old clothes, market-womanly types of humanity—anything fishy and muddy, like Billingsgate or Hungerford Market, had great attraction for him; black barges, patched sails, and every possible condition of fog.

You will find these tolerations and affections guiding or sustaining him to the last hour of his life; the notabest [160 of all such endurances being that of dirt. No Venetian ever draws anything foul; but Turner devoted picture after picture to the illustration of effects of dinginess, smoke, soot, dust, and dusty texture; old sides of boats, weedy roadside vegetation, dunghills, straw-yards, and all the soilings and stains of every common labor.

And more than this, he not only could endure, but enjoyed and looked for [170 *litter*, like Covent Garden wreck after the market. His pictures are often full of it, from side to side; their foregrounds differ from all others in the natural way that things have of lying about in them. Even his richest vegetation, in ideal work, is confused; and he delights in shingle, *débris*, and heaps of fallen stones. The last words he ever spoke to me about a picture were in gentle exultation [180 about his St. Gothard: "that *litter* of stones which I endeavored to represent."

The second great result of this Covent Garden training was understanding of and regard for the poor, whom the Venetians, we saw, despised; whom, contrarily, Turner loved, and more than loved—understood. He got no romantic sight of them, but an infallible one, as he prowled about the end of his lane, watching [190 night effects in the wintry streets; nor sight of the poor alone, but of the poor in direct relations with the rich. He knew, in good and evil, what both classes thought of, and how they dwelt with, each other.

Reynolds and Gainsborough, bred in country villages, learned there the country boy's reverential theory of "the squire,"

and kept it. They painted the squire [200 and the squire's lady as centres of the movements of the universe, to the end of their lives. But Turner perceived the younger squire in other aspects about his lane, occurring prominently in its night scenery, as a dark figure, or one of two, against the moonlight. He saw also the working of city commerce, from endless warehouse, towering over Thames, to the back shop in the lane, with its stale [210 herrings—highly interesting these last; one of his father's best friends, whom he often afterwards visited affectionately at Bristol, being a fishmonger and glue-boiler; which gives us a friendly turn of mind towards herring-fishing, whaling, Calais *poissardes*, and many other of our choicest subjects in after life; all this being connected with that mysterious forest below London Bridge on one [220 side;—and, on the other, with these masses of human power and national wealth which weigh upon us, at Covent Garden here, with strange compression, and crush us into narrow Hand Court.

"That mysterious forest below London Bridge"—better for the boy than wood of pine, or grove of myrtle. How he must have tormented the watermen, beseeching them to let him crouch anywhere in [230 the bows, quiet as a log, so only that he might get floated down there among the ships, and round and round the ships, and with the ships, and by the ships, and under the ships, staring, and clambering;—these the only quite beautiful things he can see in all the world, except the sky; but these, when the sun is on their sails, filling or falling, endlessly disordered by sway of tide and stress of anchorage, [240 beautiful unspeakably; which ships also are inhabited by glorious creatures—red-faced sailors, with pipes, appearing over the gunwales, true knights, over their castle parapets—the most angelic beings in the whole compass of London world. And Trafalgar happening long before we can draw ships, we, nevertheless, coax all current stories out of the wounded sailors, do our best at pres- [250 ent to show Nelson's funeral streaming up the Thames; and vow that Trafalgar shall have its tribute of memory some

day. Which, accordingly, is accomplished—once, with all our might, for its death; twice, with all our might, for its victory; thrice, in pensive farewell to the old *Téméraire*, and, with it, to that order of things.

Now this fond companying with [260 sailors must have divided his time, it appears to me, pretty equally between Covent Garden and Wapping (allowing for incidental excursions to Chelsea on one side, and Greenwich on the other), which time he would spend pleasantly, but not magnificently, being limited in pocket-money, and leading a kind of "Poor-Jack" life on the river.

In some respects, no life could be [270 better for a lad. But it was not calculated to make his ear fine to the niceties of language, nor form his moralities on an entirely regular standard. Picking up his first scraps of vigorous English chiefly at Deptford and in the markets, and his first ideas of female tenderness and beauty among nymphs of the barge and the barrow,—another boy might, perhaps, have become what people usually term [280 "vulgar." But the original make and frame of Turner's mind being not vulgar, but as nearly as possible a combination of the minds of Keats and Dante, joining capricious waywardness, and intense openness to every fine pleasure of sense, and hot defiance of formal precedent, with a quite infinite tenderness, generosity, and desire of justice and truth—this kind of mind did not become vulgar, but [290 very tolerant of vulgarity, even fond of it in some forms; and on the outside, visibly infected by it, deeply enough; the curious result, in its combination of elements, being to most people wholly incomprehensible. It was as if a cable had been woven of blood-crimson silk, and then tarred on the outside. People handled it, and the tar came off on their hands; red gleams were seen through [300 the black, underneath, at the places where it had been strained. Was it ochre?—said the world—or red lead?

Schooled thus in manners, literature, and general moral principles at Chelsea and Wapping, we have finally to inquire concerning the most important point

of all. We have seen the principal differences between this boy and Giorgione, as respects sight of the beautiful, [310 understanding of poverty, of commerce, and of order of battle; then follows another cause of difference in our training—not slight,—the aspect of religion, namely, in the neighborhood of Covent Garden. I say the aspect; for that was all the lad could judge by. Disposed, for the most part, to learn chiefly by his eyes, in this special matter he finds there is really no other way of learning. His father had [320 taught him "to lay one penny upon another." Of mother's teaching, we hear of none; of parish pastoral teaching, the reader may guess how much.

I chose Giorgione rather than Veronese to help me in carrying out this parallel; because I do not find in Giorgione's work any of the early Venetian monarchist element. He seems to me to have belonged more to an abstract contemplative [330 school. I may be wrong in this; it is no matter;—suppose it were so, and that he came down to Venice somewhat recusant, or insentient, concerning the usual priestly doctrines of his day,—how would the Venetian religion, from an outer intellectual standing-point, have *looked* to him?

He would have seen it to be a religion indisputably powerful in human affairs; often very harmfully so; sometimes [340 devouring widows' houses, and consuming the strongest and fairest from among the young; freezing into merciless bigotry the policy of the old: also, on the other hand, animating national courage, and raising souls, otherwise sordid, into heroism: on the whole, always a real and great power; served with daily sacrifice of gold, time, and thought; putting forth its claims, if hypocritically, at least [350 in bold hypocrisy, not waiving any atom of them in doubt or fear; and, assuredly, in large measure, sincere, believing in itself, and believed: a goodly system, moreover, in aspect; gorgeous, harmonious, mysterious;—a thing which had either to be obeyed or combated, but could not be scorned. A religion towering over all the city—many-buttressed—luminous in marble stateliness, as the dome [360 of our Lady of Safety shines over the

sea; many-voiced also, giving, over all the eastern seas, to the sentinel his watchword, to the soldier his war-cry; and, on the lips of all who died for Venice, shaping the whisper of death.

I suppose the boy Turner to have regarded the religion of his city also from an external intellectual standing-point.

What did he see in Maiden Lane? [370

Let not the reader be offended with me; I am willing to let him describe, at his own pleasure, what Turner saw there; but to me, it seems to have been this. A religion maintained occasionally, even the whole length of the lane, at point of constable's staff; but, at other times, placed under the custody of the beadle, within certain black and unstately iron railings of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. [380 Among the wheelbarrows and over the vegetables, no perceptible dominance of religion; in the narrow, disquieted streets, none; in the tongues, deeds, daily ways of Maiden Lane, little. Some honesty, indeed, and English industry, and kindness of heart, and general idea of justice; but faith, of any national kind, shut up from one Sunday to the next, not artistically beautiful even in those Sab- [390 batical exhibitions; its paraphernalia being chiefly of high pews, heavy elocution, and cold grimness of behavior.

What chiaroscuro belongs to it—(dependent mostly on candlelight),—we will, however, draw considerably; no goodliness of escutcheon, nor other respectability being omitted, and the best of their results confessed, a meek old woman and a child being let into a pew, for whom [400 the reading by candlelight will be beneficial.

For the rest, this religion seems to him discreditable—discredited—not believing in itself; putting forth its authority in a cowardly way, watching how far it might be tolerated, continually shrinking, disclaiming, fencing, finessing; divided against itself, not by stormy rents, but by thin fissures, and splittings of plaster [410 from the walls. Not to be either obeyed, or combated, by an ignorant, yet clear-sighted youth; only to be scorned. And scorned not one whit the less, though also the dome dedicated to *it* looms high

over distant winding of the Thames; as St. Mark's campanile rose, for goodly landmark, over mirage of lagoon. For St. Mark ruled over life; the Saint of London over death; St. Mark over St. [420 Mark's Place, but St. Paul over St. Paul's Churchyard.

Under these influences pass away the first reflective hours of life, with such conclusion as they can reach. In consequence of a fit of illness, he was taken—I cannot ascertain in what year—to live with an aunt, at Brentford; and here, I believe, received some schooling, which he seems to have snatched vigor- [430 ously; getting knowledge, at least by translation, of the more picturesque classical authors, which he turned presently to use, as we shall see. Hence also, walks about Putney and Twickenham in the summer time acquainted him with the look of English meadow-ground in its restricted states of paddock and park; and with some round-headed appearances of trees, and stately entrances to [440 houses of mark: the avenue at Bushy, and the iron gates and carved pillars of Hampton, impressing him apparently with great awe and admiration; so that in after life his little country house is,—of all places in the world,—at Twickenham! Of swans and reedy shores he now learns the soft motion and the green mystery, in a way not to be forgotten.

And at last fortune wills that the [450 lad's true life shall begin; and one summer's evening, after various wonderful stage-coach experiences on the north road, which gave him a love of stage-coaches ever after, he finds himself sitting alone among the Yorkshire hills. For the first time, the silence of Nature round him, her freedom sealed to him, her glory opened to him. Peace at last; no roll of cart-wheel, nor mutter of sullen [460 voices in the back shop; but curlew-cry in space of heaven, and welling of bell-toned streamlet by its shadowy rock. Freedom at last. Dead-wall, dark railing, fenced field, gated garden, all passed away like the dream of a prisoner; and behold, far as foot or eye can race or range, the moor, and cloud. Loveliness at last. It is here, then, among these deserted

valet! Not among men. Those pale, [470 poverty-struck, or cruel faces;—that multitudinous, marred humanity—are not the only things that God has made. Here is something He has made which no one has marred. Pride of purple rocks, and river pools of blue, and tender wilderness of glittering trees, and misty lights of evening on immeasurable hills.

Beauty, and freedom, and peace; and yet another teacher, graver than [480 these. Sound preaching at last here, in Kirkstall crypt, concerning fate and life. Here, where the dark pool reflects the chancel pillars, and the cattle lie in unhindered rest, the soft sunshine on their dappled bodies, instead of priests' vestments; their white furry hair ruffled a little, fitfully, by the evening wind, deep-scented from the meadow thyme.

Consider deeply the import to him of [490 this, his first sight of ruin, and compare it with the effect of the architecture that was around Giorgione. There were indeed aged buildings, at Venice, in his time, but none in decay. All ruin was removed, and its place filled as quickly as in our London; but filled always by architecture loftier and more wonderful than that whose place it took, the boy himself happy to work upon the [500 walls of it; so that the idea of the passing away of the strength of men and beauty of their works never could occur to him sternly. Brighter and brighter the cities of Italy had been rising and broadening on hill and plain, for three hundred years. He saw only strength and immortality, could not but paint both; conceived the form of man as deathless, calm with power, and fiery with life. [510

Turner saw the exact reverse of this. In the present work of men, meanness, aimlessness, unsightliness: thin-walled, lath-divided, narrow-garreted houses of clay; booths of a darksome Vanity Fair, busily base.

But on Whitby Hill, and by Bolton Brook, remained traces of other handiwork. Men who could build had been there; and who also had wrought, not [520 merely for their own days. But to what purpose? Strong faith, and steady hands, and patient souls—can this, then, be all

you have left! this the sum of your doing on the earth!—a nest whence the night-owl may whimper to the brook, and a ribbed skeleton of consumed arches, looming above the bleak banks of mist, from its cliff to the sea?

As the strength of men to Giorgione, [530 to Turner their weakness and vileness, were alone visible. They themselves, unworthy or ephemeral; their work, despicable, or decayed. In the Venetian's eyes, all beauty depended on man's presence and pride; in Turner's, on the solitude he had left, and the humiliation he had suffered.

And thus the fate and issue of all his work were determined at once. He [540 must be a painter of the strength of nature, there was no beauty elsewhere than in that; he must paint also the labor and sorrow and passing away of men: this was the great human truth visible to him.

Their labor, their sorrow, and their death. Mark the three. Labor: by sea and land, in field and city, at forge and furnace, helm and plough. No [550 pastoral indolence nor classic pride shall stand between him and the troubling of the world; still less between him and the toil of his country,—blind, tormented, unwearied, marvellous England.

Also their Sorrow: Ruin of all their glorious work, passing away of their thoughts and their honor, mirage of pleasure, FALLACY OF HOPE; gathering of weed on temple step; gaining of wave [560 on deserted strand; weeping of the mother for the children, desolate by her breathless first-born in the streets of the city, desolate by her last sons slain, among the beasts of the field.

And their Death. That old Greek question again;—yet unanswered. The unconquerable spectre still flitting among the forest trees at twilight; rising ribbed out of the sea-sand;—white, a [570 strange Aphrodite,—out of the sea-foam; stretching its gray, cloven wings among the clouds; turning the light of their sunsets into blood. This has to be looked upon, and in a more terrible shape than ever Salvator or Dürer saw it. The wreck of one guilty country does not infer the

ruin of all countries, and need not cause general terror respecting the laws of the universe. Neither did the orderly and [580 narrow succession of domestic joy and sorrow in a small German community bring the question in its breadth, or in any unresolvable shape, before the mind of Dürer. But the English death—the European death of the nineteenth century—was of another range and power; more terrible a thousandfold in its merely physical grasp and grief; more terrible, incalculably, in its mystery and shame. [590 What were the robber's casual pang, or the range of the flying skirmish, compared to the work of the axe, and the sword, and the famine, which was done during this man's youth on all the hills and plains of the Christian earth, from Moscow to Gibraltar? He was eighteen years old when Napoleon came down on Arcola. Look on the map of Europe and count the blood-stains on it, between [600 Arcola and Waterloo.

Not alone those blood-stains on the Alpine snow, and the blue of the Lombard plain. The English death was before his eyes also. No decent, calculable, consoled dying; no passing to rest like that of the aged burghers of Nuremberg town. No gentle processions to churchyards among the fields, the bronze crests bossed deep on the memorial tab- [610 lets, and the skylark singing above them from among the corn. But the life trampled out in the slime of the street, crushed to dust amidst the roaring of the wheel, tossed countless away into howling winter wind along five hundred leagues of rock-fanged shore. Or, worst of all, rotted down to forgotten graves through years of ignorant patience, and vain seeking for help from man, for hope in [620 God—infirm, imperfect yearning, as of motherless infants starving at the dawn; oppressed royalties of captive thought, vague ague-fits of bleak, amazed despair.

A goodly landscape this, for the lad to paint, and under a goodly light. Wide enough the light was, and clear; no more Savior's lurid chasm on jagged horizon, nor Dürer's spotted rest of sunny gleam on hedgerow and field; but light [630 over all the world. Full shone now its

awful globe, one pallid charnel-house,—a ball strewn bright with human ashes, glaring in poised sway beneath the sun, all blinding-white with death from pole to pole,—death, not of myriads of poor bodies only, but of will, and mercy, and conscience; death, not once inflicted on the flesh, but daily, fastening on the spirit; death, not silent or patient, wait- [640 ing his appointed hour, but voiceful, venomous; death with the taunting word, and burning grasp, and infixed sting.

"Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe." The word is spoken in our ears continually to other reapers than the angels,—to the busy skeletons that never tire for stooping. When the measure of iniquity is full, and it seems that another day might bring repentance and [650 redemption,—"Put ye in the sickle." When the young life has been wasted all away, and the eyes are just opening upon the tracks of ruin, and faint resolution rising in the heart for nobler things,—"Put ye in the sickle." When the roughest blows of fortune have been borne long and bravely, and the hand is just stretched to grasp its goal,—"Put ye in the sickle." And when there are but [660 a few in the midst of a nation, to save it, or to teach, or to cherish; and all its life is bound up in those few golden ears,—"Put ye in the sickle, pale reapers, and pour hemlock for your feast of harvest home."

This was the sight which opened on the young eyes, this the watchword sounding within the heart of Turner in his youth. [670

So taught, and prepared for his life's labor, sat the boy at last alone among his fair English hills; and began to paint, with cautious toil, the rocks, and fields, and trickling brooks, and soft white clouds of heaven.

From THE STONES OF VENICE

ST. MARK'S

"And so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus." If as the shores of Asia lessened upon his sight, the spirit of prophecy had entered into the heart

of the weak disciple who had turned back when his hand was on the plough, and who had been judged, by the chiefest of Christ's captains, unworthy thenceforward to go forth with him to the work, how wonderful would he have thought [10 it, that by the lion symbol in future ages he was to be represented among men! how woful, that the war-cry of his name should so often reanimate the rage of the soldier, on those very plains where he himself had failed in the courage of the Christian, and so often dye with fruitless blood that very Cypriot Sea, over whose waves, in repentance and shame, he was following the Son of Consola- [20 tion!

That the Venetians possessed themselves of his body in the ninth century, there appears no sufficient reason to doubt, nor that it was principally in consequence of their having done so, that they chose him for their patron saint. There exists, however, a tradition that before he went into Egypt he had founded the church at Aquileia, and was thus [30 in some sort the first bishop of the Venetian isles and people. I believe that this tradition stands on nearly as good grounds as that of St. Peter having been the first bishop of Rome; but, as usual, it is enriched by various later additions and embellishments, much resembling the stories told respecting the church of Murano. Thus we find it recorded by the Santo Padre who compiled the *Vite de' Santi* [40 *spettanti alle Chiese di Venezia*, that "St. Mark having seen the people of Aquileia well grounded in religion, and being called to Rome by St. Peter, before setting off took with him the holy bishop Hermagoras, and went in a small boat to the marshes of Venice. There were at that period some houses built upon a certain high bank called Rialto, and the boat being driven by the wind was an- [50 chored in a marshy place, when St. Mark, snatched into ecstasy, heard the voice of an angel saying to him: 'Peace be to thee, Mark; here shall thy body rest.'" The angel goes on to foretell the building of "una stupenda, ne più veduta Città", but the fable is hardly ingenious enough to deserve farther relation.

But whether St. Mark was first bishop of Aquileia or not, St. Theodore was [60 the first patron of the city; nor can he yet be considered as having entirely abdicated his early right, as his statue, standing on a crocodile, still companions the winged lion on the opposing pillar of the piazzetta. A church erected to this Saint is said to have occupied, before the ninth century, the site of St. Mark's; and the traveller, dazzled by the brilliancy of the great square, ought not [70 to leave it without endeavoring to imagine its aspect in that early time, when it was a green field cloister-like and quiet. divided by a small canal, with a line of trees on each side; and extending between the two churches of St. Theodore and St. Gemanium, as the little piazza of Torcello lies between its "palazzo" and cathedral.

But in the year 813, when the seat of [80 government was finally removed to the Rialto, a Ducal Palace, built on the spot where the present one stands, with a Ducal Chapel beside it, gave a very different character to the Square of St. Mark; and fifteen years later, the acquisition of the body of the Saint, and its deposition in the Ducal Chapel, perhaps not yet completed, occasioned the investiture of that chapel with all pos- [90 sible splendor. St. Theodore was deposed from his patronship, and his church destroyed, to make room for the aggrandizement of the one attached to the Ducal Palace, and thenceforward known as "St. Mark's."

This first church was, however, destroyed by fire, when the Ducal Palace was burned in the revolt against Candiano, in 976. It was partly rebuilt by his [100 successor, Pietro Orseolo, on a larger scale; and, with the assistance of Byzantine architects, the fabric was carried on under successive Doges for nearly a hundred years; the main building being completed in 1071, but its incrustation with marble not till considerably later. It was consecrated on the 8th of October, 1085, according to Sansovino and the author of the *Chiesa Ducale di S.* [110 *Marco*, in 1094 according to Lazari, but certainly between 1084 and 1096, those

years being the limits of the reign of Vital Falier; I incline to the supposition that it was soon after his accession to the throne in 1085, though Sansovino writes, by mistake, Ordelafo instead of Vital Falier. But, at all events, before the close of the eleventh century the great consecration of the church took place. [120 It was again injured by fire in 1106, but repaired; and from that time to the fall of Venice there was probably no Doge who did not in some slight degree embellish or alter the fabric, so that few parts of it can be pronounced boldly to be of any given date. Two periods of interference are, however, notable above the rest: the first, that in which the Gothic school had superseded the Byzantine to- [130 wards the close of the fourteenth century, when the pinnacles, upper archivolts, and window traceries were added to the exterior, and the great screen with various chapels and tabernacle-work, to the interior; the second, when the Renaissance school superseded the Gothic, and the pupils of Titian and Tintoret substituted, over one half of the church, their own compositions for the Greek mosaics [140 with which it was originally decorated; happily, though with no good will, having left enough to enable us to imagine and lament what they destroyed. Of this irreparable loss we shall have more to say hereafter; meantime, I wish only to fix in the reader's mind the succession of periods of alterations as firmly and simply as possible.

We have seen that the main body of [150 the church may be broadly stated to be of the eleventh century, the Gothic additions of the fourteenth, and the restored mosaics of the seventeenth. . . .

This, however, I only wish him to recollect in order that I may speak generally of the Byzantine architecture of St. Mark's, without leading him to suppose the whole church to have been built and decorated by Greek artists. Its later [160 portions, with the single exception of the seventeenth-century mosaics, have been so dexterously accommodated to the original fabric that the general effect is still that of a Byzantine building; and I shall not, except when it is absolutely

necessary, direct attention to the discordant points, or weary the reader with anatomical criticism. Whatever in St. Mark's arrests the eye, or affects the [170 feelings, is either Byzantine, or has been modified by Byzantine influence; and our inquiry into its architectural merits need not therefore be disturbed by the anxieties of antiquarianism, or arrested by the obscurities of chronology.

And now I wish that the reader, before I bring him into St. Mark's Place, would imagine himself for a little time in a quiet English cathedral town, and walk [180 with me to the west front of its cathedral. Let us go together up the more retired street, at the end of which we can see the pinnacles of one of the towers, and then through the low gray gateway, with its battlemented top and small latticed window in the centre, into the inner private-looking road or close, where nothing goes in but the carts of the tradesmen who supply the bishop and the chap- [190 ter, and where there are little shaven grassplots, fenced in by neat rails, before old-fashioned groups of somewhat diminutive and excessively trim houses, with little oriel and bay windows jutting out here and there, and deep wooden cornices and eaves painted cream color and white, and small porches to their doors in the shape of cockle-shells, or little, crooked, thick, indescribable wooden gables [200 warped a little on one side; and so forward till we come to larger houses, also old-fashioned, but of red brick, and with gardens behind them, and fruit walls, which show here and there, among the nectarines, the vestiges of an old cloister arch or shaft, and looking in front on the cathedral square itself, laid out in rigid divisions of smooth grass and gravel walk, yet not uncheerful, especially [210 on the sunny side, where the canons' children are walking with their nursery-maids. And so, taking care not to tread on the grass, we will go along the straight walk to the west front, and there stand for a time, looking up at its deep-pointed porches and the dark places between their pillars where there were statues once, and where the fragments, here and there, of a stately figure are still left, which [220

has in it the likeness of a king, perhaps indeed a king on earth, perhaps a saintly king long ago in heaven; and so higher and higher up to the great mouldering wall of rugged sculpture and confused arcades, shattered, and gray, and grisly with heads of dragons and mocking fiends, worn by the rain and swirling winds into yet unseemlier shape, and colored on their stony scales by the [230 deep russet-orange lichen, melancholy gold; and so, higher still, to the bleak towers, so far above that the eye loses itself among the bosses of their traceries, though they are rude and strong, and only sees like a drift of eddying black points, now closing, now scattering, and now settling suddenly into invisible places among the bosses and flowers, the crowd of restless birds that fill the whole [240 square with that strange clangor of theirs, so harsh and yet so soothing, like the cries of birds on a solitary coast between the cliffs and sea.

Think for a little while of that scene, and the meaning of all its small formalisms, mixed with its serene sublimity. Estimate its secluded, continuous, drowsy felicities, and its evidence of the sense and steady performance of such kind [250 of duties as can be regulated by the cathedral clock; and weigh the influence of those dark towers on all who have passed through the lonely square at their feet for centuries, and on all who have seen them rising far away over the wooded plain, or catching on their square masses the last rays of the sunset, when the city at their feet was indicated only by the mist at the bend of the river. And [260 then let us quickly recollect that we are in Venice, and land at the extremity of the *Calla Lunga San Moisè*, which may be considered as there answering to the secluded street that led us to our English cathedral gateway.

We find ourselves in a paved alley, some seven feet wide where it is widest, full of people, and resonant with cries of itinerant salesmen,—a shriek in their [270 beginning, and dying away into a kind of brazen ringing, all the worse for its confinement between the high houses of the passage along which we have to make

our way. Over-head, an inextricable confusion of rugged shutters, and iron balconies and chimney flues, pushed out on brackets to save room, and arched windows with projecting sills of Istrian stone, and gleams of green leaves [280 here and there where a fig-tree branch escapes over a lower wall from some inner cortile, leading the eye up to the narrow stream of blue sky high over all. On each side, a row of shops, as densely set as may be, occupying, in fact, intervals between the square stone shafts, about eight feet high, which carry the first floors: intervals of which one is narrow and serves as a door; the other is, in [290 the more respectable shops, wainscotted to the height of the counter and glazed above, but in those of the poorer tradesmen left open to the ground, and the wares laid on benches and tables in the open air, the light in all cases entering at the front only, and fading away in a few feet from the threshold into a gloom which the eye from without cannot penetrate, but which is generally broken [300 by a ray or two from a feeble lamp at the back of the shop, suspended before a print of the Virgin. The less pious shopkeeper sometimes leaves his lamp unlighted, and is contented with a penny print; the more religious one has his print colored and set in a little shrine with a gilded or figured fringe, with perhaps a faded flower or two on each side, and his lamp burning brilliantly. Here, at the [310 fruiterer's, where the dark-green water-melons are heaped upon the counter like cannon balls, the Madonna has a tabernacle of fresh laurel leaves; but the pewterer next door has let his lamp out, and there is nothing to be seen in his shop but the dull gleam of the studded patterns on the copper pans, hanging from his roof in the darkness. Next comes a "*Vendita Frittole e Liquori*," [320 where the Virgin, enthroned in a very humble manner beside a tallow candle on a back shelf, presides over certain ambrosial morsels of a nature too ambiguous to be defined or enumerated. But a few steps farther on, at the regular wine-shop of the calle, where we are offered "*Vino Nostrani a Soldi 28.32*," the Ma-

donna is in great glory, enthroned above ten or a dozen large red casks of three- [330] year-old vintage, and flanked by goodly ranks of bottles of Maraschino, and two crimson lamps; and for the evening, when the gondoliers will come to drink out, under her auspices, the money they have gained during the day, she will have a whole chandelier.

A yard or two farther, we pass the hostelry of the Black Eagle, and, glancing as we pass through the square door [340] of marble, deeply moulded, in the outer wall, we see the shadows of its pergola of vines resting on an ancient well, with a pointed shield carved on its side; and so presently emerge on the bridge and Campo San Moisè, whence to the entrance into St. Mark's Place, called the Bocca di Piazza (mouth of the square), the Venetian character is nearly destroyed, first by the frightful façade of San Moisè, [350] which we will pause at another time to examine, and then by the modernizing of the shops as they near the piazza, and the mingling with the lower Venetian populace of lounging groups of English and Austrians. We will push fast through them into the shadow of the pillars at the end of the "Bocca di Piazza," and then we forget them all; for between those pillars there opens a great light, and, [360] in the midst of it, as we advance slowly, the vast tower of St. Mark seems to lift itself visibly forth from the level field of chequered stones; and, on each side, the countless arches prolong themselves into ranged symmetry, as if the rugged and irregular houses that pressed together above us in the dark alley had been struck back into sudden obedience and lovely order, and all their rude casements [370] and broken walls had been transformed into arches charged with goodly sculpture, and fluted shafts of delicate stone.

And well may they fall back, for beyond those troops of ordered arches there rises a vision out of the earth, and all the great square seems to have opened from it in a kind of awe, that we may see it far away;—a multitude of pillars and white domes, clustered into a long [380] low pyramid of colored light; a treasure-heap, it seems, partly of gold, and partly

of opal and mother-of-pearl, hollowed beneath into five great vaulted porches, ceiled with fair mosaic, and beset with sculpture of alabaster, clear as amber and delicate as ivory,—sculpture fantastic and involved, of palm leaves and lilies, and grapes and pomegranates, and birds clinging and fluttering among [390] the branches, all twined together into an endless network of buds and plumes; and, in the midst of it, the solemn forms of angels, sceptred, and robed to the feet, and leaning to each other across the gates, their figures indistinct among the gleaming of the golden ground through the leaves beside them, interrupted and dim, like the morning light as it faded back among the branches of Eden, [400] when first its gates were angel-guarded long ago. And round the walls of the porches there are set pillars of variegated stones, jasper and porphyry, and deep-green serpentine spotted with flakes of snow, and marbles, that half refuse and half yield to the sunshine, Cleopatra-like, "their bluest veins to kiss"—the shadow, as it steals back from them, revealing line after line of azure un- [410] dulation, as a receding tide leaves the waved sand; their capitals rich with interwoven tracery, rooted knots of herbage, and drifting leaves of acanthus and vine, and mystical signs, all beginning and ending in the Cross; and above them, in the broad archivolts, a continuous chain of language and of life—angels, and the signs of heaven, and the labors of men, each in its appointed season [420] upon the earth; and above these, another range of glittering pinnacles, mixed with white arches edged with scarlet flowers,—a confusion of delight, amidst which the breasts of the Greek horses are seen blazing in their breadth of golden strength, and the St. Mark's Lion, lifted on a blue field covered with stars, until at last, as if in ecstasy, the crests of the arches break into a marble foam, and toss them- [430] selves far into the blue sky in flashes and wreaths of sculptured spray, as if the breakers on the Lido shore had been frost-bound before they fell, and the sea-nymphs had inlaid them with coral and amethyst.

Between that grim cathedral of England and this, what an interval! There is a type of it in the very birds that haunt them; for, instead of the restless [440 crowd, hoarse-voiced and sable-winged, drifting on the bleak upper air, the St. Mark's porches are full of doves, that nestle among the marble foliage, and mingle the soft iridescence of their living plumes, changing at every motion, with the tints, hardly less lovely, that have stood unchanged for seven hundred years.

And what effect has this splendor [450 on those who pass beneath it? You may walk from sunrise to sunset, to and fro, before the gateway of St. Mark's, and you will not see an eye lifted to it, nor a countenance brightened by it. Priest and layman, soldier and civilian, rich and poor, pass by it alike regardlessly. Up to the very recesses of the porches, the meanest tradesmen of the city push their counters; nay, the foundations of its [460 pillars are themselves the seats—not "of them that sell doves" for sacrifice, but of the vendors of toys and caricatures. Round the whole square in front of the church there is almost a continuous line of cafés, where the idle Venetians of the middle classes lounge, and read empty journals; in its centre the Austrian bands play during the time of vespers, their martial music jarring with the [470 organ notes,—the march drowning the miserere, and the sullen crowd thickening round them,—a crowd, which, if it had its will, would stiletto every soldier that pipes to it. And in the recesses of the porches, all day long, knots of men of the lowest classes, unemployed and listless, lie basking in the sun like lizards; and unregarded children,—every heavy glance of their young eyes full of des- [480 peration and stony depravity, and their throats hoarse with cursing,—gamble, and fight, and snarl, and sleep, hour after hour, clashing their bruised centesimi upon the marble ledges of the church porch. And the images of Christ and His angels look down upon it continually.

From TIME AND TIDE

Leller XV

THE NATURE OF THEFT BY UNJUST PROFITS.—CRIME CAN FINALLY BE ARRESTED ONLY BY EDUCATION

The first methods of polite robbery, by dishonest manufacture, and by debt, of which we have been hitherto speaking, are easily enough to be dealt with and ended, when once men have a mind to end them. But the third method of polite robbery, by dishonest acquisition, has many branches, and is involved among honest arts of acquisition, so that it is difficult to repress the one with- [10 out restraining the other.

Observe, first, large fortunes cannot honestly be made by the work of *one* man's hands or head. If his work benefits multitudes, and involves position of high trust, it may be (I do not say that it *is*) expedient to reward him with great wealth or estate; but fortune of this kind is freely given in gratitude for benefit, not as repayment for labor. Also, men [20 of peculiar genius in any art, if the public can enjoy the product of their genius, may set it at almost any price they choose; but this, I will show you when I come to speak of art, is unlawful on their part, and ruinous to their own powers. Genius must not be sold; the sale of it involves, in a transcendental, but perfectly true sense, the guilt both of simony and prostitution. Your labor only [30 may be sold; your soul must not.

Now, by fair pay for fair labor, according to the rank of it, a man can obtain means of comfortable, or if he needs it, refined life. But he cannot obtain large fortune. Such fortunes as are now the prizes of commerce can be made only in one of three ways:—

1. By obtaining command over the labor of multitudes of other men, and [40 taxing it for our own profit.
2. By treasure-trove,—as of mines, useful vegetable products, and the like,—in circumstances putting them under our own exclusive control.
3. By speculation (commercial gambling). The first two of these means of

obtaining riches are, in some forms and within certain limits, lawful, and advantageous to the State. The third is [50 entirely detrimental to it; for in all cases of profit derived from speculation, at best, what one man gains another loses; and the net result to the State is zero (pecuniarily), with the loss of time and ingenuity spent in the transaction; besides the disadvantage involved in the discouragement of the losing party, and the corrupted moral natures of both. This is the result of speculation at its [60 best. At its worst, not only B. loses what A. gains (having taken his fair risk of such loss for his fair chance of gain), but C. and D., who never had any chance at all, are drawn in by B.'s fall, and the final result is that A. sets up his carriage on the collected sum which was once a means of living to a dozen families.

Nor is this all. For while real commerce is founded on real necessities or [70 uses, and limited by these, speculation, of which the object is merely gain, seeks to excite imaginary necessities and popular desires, in order to gain its temporary profit from the supply of them. So that not only the persons who lend their money to it will be finally robbed, but the work done with their money will be for the most part useless, and thus the entire body of the public injured as [80 well as the persons concerned in the transaction. Take, for instance, the architectural decorations of railways throughout the kingdom,—representing many millions of money for which no farthing of dividend can ever be forthcoming. The public will not be induced to pay the smallest fraction of higher fare to Rochester or Dover, because the iron-work of the bridge which carries them [90 over the Thames is covered with floral cockades, and the piers of it edged with ornamental cornices. All that work is simply put there by the builders that they may put the percentage upon it into their own pockets; and the rest of the money being thrown into that floral form, there is an end of it, as far as the shareholders are concerned. Millions upon millions have thus been spent, [100 within the last twenty years, on orna-

mental arrangements of zigzag bricks, black and blue tiles, cast-iron foliage, and the like; of which millions, as I said, not a penny can ever return into the shareholders' pockets, nor contribute to public speed or safety on the line. It is all sunk forever in ornamental architecture, and (trust me for this!) *all that architecture is bad*. As such, it had [110 incomparably better not have been built. Its only result will be to corrupt what capacity of taste or right pleasure in such work we have yet left to us! And consider a little, what other kind of result than that might have been attained if all those millions had been spent usefully: say, in buying land for the people, or building good houses for them, or (if it had been imperatively required to [120 be spent decoratively) in laying out gardens and parks for them,—or buying noble works of art for their permanent possession,—or, best of all, establishing frequent public schools and libraries! Count what those lost millions would have so accomplished for you! But you left the affair to "supply and demand," and the British public had not brains enough to "demand" land, or lodg- [130 ing, or books. It "demanded" cast-iron cockades and zigzag cornices, and is "supplied" with them, to its beatitude for evermore.

Now, the theft we first spoke of, by falsity of workmanship or material, is, indeed, so far worse than these thefts by dishonest acquisition, that there is no possible excuse for it on the ground of self-deception; while many specula- [140 tive thefts are committed by persons who really mean to do no harm, but think the system on the whole a fair one, and do the best they can in it for themselves. But in the real fact of the crime, when consciously committed, in the numbers reached by its injury, in the degree of suffering it causes to those whom it ruins, in the baseness of its calculated betrayal of implicit trust, in the yet more per- [150 fect villainy of the obtaining such trust by misrepresentation, only that it *may* be betrayed, and in the impossibility that the crime should be at all committed, except by persons of good position and

large knowledge of the world,—what manner of theft is so wholly unpardonable, so inhuman, so contrary to every law and instinct which binds and animates society? [160]

And then consider farther, how many of the carriages that glitter in our streets are driven, and how many of the stately houses that gleam among our English fields are inhabited, by this kind of thief!

I happened to be reading this morning (29th March) some portions of the Lent services, and I came to a pause over the familiar words, "And with Him they crucified two thieves." Have you [170] ever considered (I speak to you now as a professing Christian) why, in the accomplishment of the "numbering among transgressors," the transgressors chosen should have been especially thieves—not murderers, nor, as far as we know, sinners by any gross violence? Do you observe how the sin of theft is again and again indicated as the chiefly antagonistic one to the law of Christ? "This he said, [180] not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag" (of Judas). And again, though Barabbas was a leader of sedition and a murderer besides—(that the popular election might be in all respects perfect)—yet St. John, in curt and conclusive account of him, fastens again on the theft. "Then cried they all again saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was [190] a robber." I believe myself the reason to be that theft is indeed, in its subtle forms, the most complete and excuseless of human crimes. Sins of violence usually have passion to excuse them: they may be the madness of moments; or they may be apparently the only means of extrication from calamity. In other cases, they are the diseased habits of lower and brutified natures. But theft involves [200] deliberative intellect, and absence of passion, is the purest type of wilful iniquity, in persons capable of doing right. Which being so, it seems to be fast becoming the practice of modern society to crucify its Christ indeed, as willingly as ever, in the persons of His poor; but by no means now to crucify its thieves beside Him! It elevates its thieves after

another fashion; sets them upon an [210] hill, that their light may shine before men, and that all may see their good works, and glorify their Father in—the Opposite of Heaven.

I think your trade parliament will have to put an end to this kind of business somehow! But it cannot be done by laws merely, where the interests and circumstances are so extended and complex. Nay, even as regards lower and more [220] defined crimes, the assigned punishment is not to be thought of as a preventive means; but only as the seal of opinion set by society on the fact. Crime cannot be hindered by punishment; it will always find some shape and outlet, unpunishable or unclosed. Crime can only be truly hindered by letting no man grow up a criminal—by taking away the *will* to commit sin; not by mere punishment [230] of its commission. Crime, small and great, can only be truly stayed by education—not the education of the intellect only, which is, on some men, wasted, and for others mischievous; but education of the heart, which is alike good and necessary for all.

THE RELATION OF ART TO MORALS

. . . And now I pass to the arts with which I have special concern, in which, though the facts are exactly the same, I shall have more difficulty in proving my assertion, because very few of us are as cognizant of the merit of painting as we are of that of language; and I can only show you whence that merit springs, after having thoroughly shown you in what it consists. But, in the meantime, I [10] have simply to tell you, that the manual arts are as accurate exponents of ethical state, as other modes of expression; first, with absolute precision, of that of the workman; and then with precision, disguised by many distorting influences, of that of the nation to which it belongs.

And, first, they are a perfect exponent of the mind of the workman: but, being so, remember, if the mind be great or [20] complex, the art is not an easy book to

read; for we must ourselves possess all the mental characters of which we are to read the signs. No man can read the evidence of labor who is not himself laborious, for he does not know what the work cost: nor can he read the evidence of true passion if he is not passionate; nor of gentleness if he is not gentle: and the most subtle signs of [30] fault and weakness of character he can only judge by having had the same faults to fight with. I myself, for instance, know impatient work, and tired work, better than most critics, because I am myself always impatient, and often tired:—so also, the patient and indefatigable touch of a mighty master becomes more wonderful to me than to others. Yet, wonderful in no mean measure it will [40] be to you all, when I make it manifest;—and as soon as we begin our real work, and you have learned what it is to draw a true line, I shall be able to make manifest to you,—and undisputably so,—that the day's work of a man like Mantegna or Paul Veronese consists of an unflinching, uninterrupted, succession of movements of the hand more precise than those of the finest fencer: the pencil [50] leaving one point and arriving at another, not only with unerring precision at the extremity of the line, but with an unerring and yet varied course—sometimes over spaces a foot or more in extent—yet a course so determined everywhere that either of these men could, and Veronese often does, draw a finished profile, or any other portion of the contour of the face, with one line, not afterwards [60] changed. Try, first, to realize to yourselves the muscular precision of that action, and the intellectual strain of it; for the movement of a fencer is perfect in practised monotony; but the movement of the hand of a great painter is at every instant governed by direct and new intention. Then imagine that muscular firmness and subtlety, and the instantaneously selective and ordant [70] energy of the brain, sustained all day long, not only without fatigue, but with a visible joy in the exertion, like that which an eagle seems to take in the wave of his wings; and this all life long, and

through long life, not only without failure of power, but with visible increase of it, until the actually organic changes of old age. And then consider, so far as you know anything of physiology, what [80] sort of an ethical state of body and mind that means!—ethic through ages past! what fineness of race there must be to get it, what exquisite balance and symmetry of the vital powers! And then, finally, determine for yourselves whether a manhood like that is consistent with any viciousness of soul, with any mean anxiety, any gnawing lust, any wretchedness of spite or remorse, any conscious- [90] ness of rebellion against law of God or man, or any actual, though unconscious violation of even the least law to which obedience is essential for the glory of life, and the pleasing of its Giver.

It is, of course, true that many of the strong masters had deep faults of character, but their faults always show in their work. It is true that some could not govern their passions; if so, they died [100] young, or they painted ill when old. But the greater part of our misapprehension in the whole matter is from our not having well known who the great painters were, and taking delight in the petty skill that was bred in the fumes of the taverns of the North, instead of theirs who breathed empyreal air, sons of the morning, under the woods of Assisi and the crags of Cadore. [110]

It is true however also, as I have pointed out long ago, that the strong masters fall into two great divisions, one leading simple and natural lives, the other restrained in a Puritanism of the worship of beauty; and these two manners of life you may recognize in a moment by their work. Generally the naturalists are the strongest; but there are two of the Puritans, whose work if I can succeed in making clearly understandable to you during my three years here, it is all I need care to do. But of these two Puritans one I cannot name to you, and the other I at present will not. One I cannot, for no one knows his name, except the baptismal one, Bernard, or “dear little Bernard”—Bernardino, called from his birthplace, (Luino, on the Lago Mag-

giore,) Bernard of Luino. The other [130 is a Venetian, of whom many of you probably have never heard, and of whom, through me, you shall not hear, until I have tried to get some picture by him over to England.

Observe then, this Puritanism in the worship of beauty, though sometimes weak, is always honorable and amiable, and the exact reverse of the false Puritanism, which consists in the dread or [140 disdain of beauty. And in order to treat my subject rightly, I ought to proceed from the skill of art to the choice of its subject, and show you how the moral temper of the workman is shown by his seeking lovely forms and thoughts to express, as well as by the force of his hand in expression. But I need not now urge this part of the proof on you, because you are already, I believe, sufficiently [150 conscious of the truth in this matter, and also I have already said enough of it in my writings; whereas I have not at all said enough of the infallibleness of fine technical work as a proof of every other good power. And indeed it was long before I myself understood the true meaning of the pride of the greatest men in their mere execution, shown for a permanent lesson to us, in the stories [160 which, whether true or not, indicate with absolute accuracy the general conviction of great artists;—the stories of the contest of Apelles and Protogenes in a line only, (of which I can promise you, you shall know the meaning to some purpose in a little while),—the story of the circle of Giotto, and especially, which you may perhaps not have observed, the expression of Dürer in his inscription on the [170 drawings sent him by Raphael. These figures, he says, “Raphael drew and sent to Albert Dürer in Nürnberg, to show him”—What? Not his invention, nor his beauty of expression, but “sein Hand zu weisen,” “to show him his *hand*.” And you will find, as you examine farther, that all inferior artists are continually trying to escape from the necessity of sound work, and either [180 indulging themselves in their delights in subject, or pluming themselves on their noble motives for attempting what they

cannot perform; (and observe, by the way, that a great deal of what is mistaken for conscientious motive is nothing but a very pestilent, because very subtle, condition of vanity); whereas the great men always understand at once that the first morality of a painter, as of every- [190 body else, is to know his business; and so earnest are they in this, that many, whose lives you would think, by the results of their work, had been passed in strong emotion, have in reality subdued themselves, though capable of the very strongest passions, into a calm as absolute as that of a deeply sheltered mountain lake, which reflects every agitation of the clouds in the sky, and every change [200 of the shadows on the hills, but is itself motionless.

Finally, you must remember that great obscurity has been brought upon the truth in this matter by the want of integrity and simplicity in our modern life. I mean integrity in the Latin sense, wholeness. Everything is broken up, and mingled in confusion, both in our habits and thoughts; besides being in great part [210 imitative: so that you not only cannot tell what a man is, but sometimes you cannot tell whether he *is*, at all!—whether you have indeed to do with a spirit, or only with an echo. And thus the same inconsistencies appear now, between the work of artists of merit and their personal characters, as those which you find continually disappointing expectation in the lives of men of modern literary [220 power;—the same conditions of society having obscured or misdirected the best qualities of the imagination, both in our literature and art. Thus there is no serious question with any of us as to the personal character of Dante and Giotto, of Shakespeare and Holbein; but we pause timidly in the attempt to analyze the moral laws of the art skill in recent poets, novelists, and painters. [230

Let me assure you once for all, that as you grow older, if you enable yourselves to distinguish by the truth of your own lives, what is true in those of other men, you will gradually perceive that all good has its origin in good, never in evil; that the fact of either literature or painting

being truly fine of their kind, whatever their mistaken aim, or partial error, is proof of their noble origin: and that, [240 if there is indeed sterling value in the thing done, it has come of a sterling worth in the soul that did it, however alloyed or defiled by conditions of sin which are sometimes more appalling or more strange than those which all may detect in their own hearts, because they are part of a personality altogether larger than ours, and as far beyond our judgment in its darkness as beyond our following in [250 its light. And it is sufficient warning against what some might dread as the probable effect of such a conviction on your own minds, namely, that you might permit yourselves in the weaknesses which you imagined to be allied to genius, when they took the form of personal temptations;—it is surely, I say, sufficient warning against so mean a folly, to discern, as you may with little [260 pains, that, of all human existences, the lives of men of that distorted and tainted nobility of intellect are probably the most miserable.

I pass to the second, and for us the more practically important question, What is the effect of noble art upon other men; what has it done for national morality in time past: and what effect is the extended knowledge or possession of it [270 likely to have upon us now? And here we are at once met by the facts, which are as gloomy as indisputable, that, while many peasant populations, among whom scarcely the rudest practice of art has ever been attempted, have lived in comparative innocence, honor, and happiness, the worst foulness and cruelty of savage tribes have been frequently associated with fine ingenuities of decora- [280 tive design; also, that no people has ever attained the higher stages of art skill, except at a period of its civilization which was sullied by frequent, violent, and even monstrous crime; and, lastly, that the attaining of perfection in art power, has been hitherto, in every nation, the accurate signal of the beginning of its ruin.

Respecting which phenomena, ob- [290 serve first, that although good never

springs out of evil, it is developed to its highest by contention with evil. There are some groups of peasantry, in far-away nooks of Christian countries, who are nearly as innocent as lambs; but the morality which gives power to art is the morality of men, not of cattle.

Secondly, the virtues of the inhabitants of many country districts are ap- [300 parent, not real; their lives are indeed artless, but not innocent; and it is only the monotony of circumstances, and the absence of temptation, which prevent the exhibition of evil passions not less real because often dormant, nor less foul because shown only in petty faults, or inactive malignities.

But you will observe also that *absolute* artlessness, to men in any kind of [310 moral health, is impossible; they have always, at least, the art by which they live—agriculture or seamanship; and in these industries, skilfully practised, you will find the law of their moral training; while, whatever the adversity of circumstances, every rightly-minded peasantry, such as that of Sweden, Denmark, Bavaria, or Switzerland, has associated with its needful industry a quite [320 studied school of pleasurable art in dress; and generally also in song, and simple domestic architecture.

Again, I need not repeat to you here what I endeavored to explain in the first lecture in the book I called *The Two Paths*, respecting the arts of savage races: but I may now note briefly that such arts are the result of an intellectual activity which has found no room to expand, and [330 which the tyranny of nature or of man has condemned to disease through arrested growth. And where neither Christianity, nor any other religion conveying some moral help, has reached, the animal energy of such races necessarily flames into ghastly conditions of evil, and the grotesque or frightful forms assumed by their art are precisely indicative of their distorted moral nature. [340

But the truly great nations nearly always begin from a race possessing this imaginative power; and for some time their progress is very slow, and their state not one of innocence, but of feverish and

faultful animal energy. This is gradually subdued and exalted into bright human life; the art instinct purifying itself with the rest of the nature, until social perfectness is nearly reached; and then [350 comes the period when conscience and intellect are so highly developed, that new forms of error begin in the inability to fulfil the demands of the one, or to answer the doubts of the other. Then the wholeness of the people is lost; all kinds of hypocrisies and oppositions of science develop themselves; their faith is questioned on one side, and compromised with on the other; wealth commonly in- [360 creases at the same period to a destructive extent; luxury follows; and the ruin of the nation is then certain: while the arts, all this time, are simply, as I said at first, the exponents of each phase of its moral state, and no more control it in its political career than the gleam of the firefly guides its oscillation. It is true that their most splendid results are usually obtained in the swiftness of the power which is [370 hurrying to the precipice; but to lay the charge of the catastrophe to the art by which it is illumined, is to find a cause for the cataract in the hues of its iris. It is true that the colossal vices belonging to periods of great national wealth (for wealth, you will find, is the real root of all evil) can turn every good gift and skill of nature or of man to evil purpose. If, in such times, fair pictures have been [380 misused, how much more fair realities? And if Miranda is immoral to Caliban is that Miranda's fault? . . .

THOMAS BABINGTON, LORD
MACAULAY (1800-1859)

OLIVER GOLDSMITH

Oliver Goldsmith, one of the most pleasing English writers of the eighteenth century. He was of a Protestant and Saxon family which had been long settled in Ireland, and which had, like most other Protestant and Saxon families, been, in troubled times, harassed and put in fear by the native population. His

father, Charles Goldsmith, studied in the reign of Queen Anne at the diocesan [10 school at Elphin, became attached to the daughter of the schoolmaster, married her, took orders, and settled at a place called Pallas, in the county of Longford. There he with difficulty supported his wife and children on what he could earn, partly as a curate and partly as a farmer.

At Pallas Oliver Goldsmith was born in November 1728. That spot was then, for all practical purposes, almost as [20 remote from the busy and splendid capital in which his later years were passed, as any clearing in Upper Canada or any sheep-walk in Australasia now is. Even at this day those enthusiasts who venture to make a pilgrimage to the birthplace of the poet are forced to perform the latter part of their journey on foot. The hamlet lies far from any high-road on a dreary plain which in wet [30 weather is often a lake. The lanes would break any jaunting-car to pieces; and there are ruts and sloughs through which the most strongly-built wheels cannot be dragged.

While Oliver was still a child, his father was presented to a living worth about £200 a year, in the county of West Meath. The family accordingly quitted their cottage in the wilderness for a [40 spacious house on a frequented road, near the village of Lissoy. Here the boy was taught his letters by a maid-servant, and was sent in his seventh year to a village school kept by an old quarter-master on half-pay, who professed to teach nothing but reading, writing, and arithmetic, but who had an inexhaustible fund of stories about ghosts, banshees, and fairies, about the great Rap- [50 patee chiefs, Baldearg O'Donnell and galloping Hogan, and about the exploits of Peterborough and Stanhope, the surprise of Monjuich, and the glorious disaster of Brihuega. This man must have been of the Protestant religion; but he was of the aboriginal race, and not only spoke the Irish language, but could pour forth unpremeditated Irish verses. Oliver early became, and through life con- [60 tinued to be, a passionate admirer of the Irish music, and especially of the

compositions of Carolan, some of the last notes of whose harp he heard. It ought to be added that Oliver, though by birth one of the Englishry, and though connected by numerous ties with the established church, never showed the least sign of that contemptuous antipathy with which, in his days, the ruling [70 minority in Ireland too generally regarded the subject majority. So far indeed was he from sharing the opinions and feelings of the caste to which he belonged, that he conceived an aversion to the Glorious and Immortal Memory, and, even when George the Third was on the throne, maintained that nothing but the restoration of the banished dynasty could save the country. [80

From the humble academy kept by the old soldier Goldsmith was removed in his ninth year. He went to several grammar-schools, and acquired some knowledge of the ancient languages. His life at this time seems to have been far from happy. He had, as appears from the admirable portrait of him at Knowle, features harsh even to ugliness. The small-pox had set its mark on him [90 with more than usual severity. His stature was small, and his limbs ill put together. Among boys little tenderness is shown to personal defects; and the ridicule excited by poor Oliver's appearance was heightened by a peculiar simplicity and a disposition to blunder which he retained to the last. He became the common butt of boys and masters, was pointed at as a fright in the play- [100 ground, and flogged as a dunce in the schoolroom. When he had risen to eminence, those who had once derided him ransacked their memory for the events of his early years, and recited repartees and couplets which had dropped from him, and which, though little noticed at the time, were supposed, a quarter of a century later, to indicate the powers which produced the *Vicar of Wake-* [110 *field* and the *Deserted Village*.

In his seventeenth year Oliver went up to Trinity College, Dublin, as a sizar. The sizars paid nothing for food and tuition, and very little for lodging; but they had to perform some menial services

from which they have long been relieved. They swept the court: they carried up the dinner to the fellows' table, and changed the plates and poured out [120 the ale of the rulers of the society. Goldsmith was quartered, not alone, in a garret, on the window of which his name, scrawled by himself, is still read with interest.¹ From such garrets many men of less parts than his have made their way to the woosack or to the episcopal bench. But Goldsmith, while he suffered all the humiliations, threw away all the advantages of his situation. He neglected the studies of the place, stood low at the examinations, was turned down to the bottom of his class for playing the buffoon in the lecture-room, was severely reprimanded for pumping on a constable, and was caned by a brutal tutor for giving a ball in the attic story of the college to some gay youths and damsels from the city.

While Oliver was leading at Dublin [140 a life divided between squalid distress and squalid dissipation, his father died, leaving a mere pittance. The youth obtained his bachelor's degree, and left the University. During some time the humble dwelling to which his widowed mother had retired was his home. He was now in his twenty-first year; it was necessary that he should do something; and his education seemed to have fitted him [150 to do nothing but to dress himself in gaudy colors, of which he was as fond as a magpie, to take a hand at cards, to sing Irish airs, to play the flute, to angle in summer, and to tell ghost stories by the fire in winter. He tried five or six professions in turn without success. He applied for ordination; but, as he applied in scarlet clothes, he was speedily turned out of the episcopal palace. He then [160 became tutor in an opulent family, but soon quitted his situation in consequence of a dispute about play. Then he determined to emigrate to America. His relations, with much satisfaction, saw him set out for Cork on a good horse, with thirty pounds in his pocket. But in six

¹ The glass on which the name is written has, as we are informed by a writer in *Notes and Queries* (2nd S. ix. p. 91), been enclosed in a frame deposited in the Manuscript Room of the College Library, where it is still to be seen. (Macaulay.)

weeks he came back on a miserable hack, without a penny, and informed his mother that the ship in which he had taken [170 his passage, having got a fair wind while he was at a party of pleasure, had sailed without him. Then he resolved to study the law. A generous kinsman advanced fifty pounds. With this sum Goldsmith went to Dublin, was enticed into a gaming-house, and lost every shilling. He then thought of medicine. A small purse was made up: and in his twenty-fourth year he was sent to Edinburgh. At Edin- [180 burgh he passed eighteen months in nominal attendance on lectures, and picked up some superficial information about chemistry and natural history. Thence he went to Leyden, still pretending to study physic. He left that celebrated university, the third university at which he had resided, in his twenty-seventh year, without a degree, with the merest smattering of medical knowl- [190 edge, and with no property but his clothes and his flute. His flute, however, proved a useful friend. He rambled on foot through Flanders, France, and Switzerland, playing tunes which everywhere set the peasantry dancing, and which often procured for him a supper and a bed. He wandered as far as Italy. His musical performances, indeed, were not to the taste of the Italians, but he [200 contrived to live on the alms which he obtained at the gates of convents. It should, however, be observed that the stories which he told about this part of his life ought to be received with great caution; for strict veracity was never one of his virtues; and a man who is ordinarily inaccurate in narration is likely to be more than ordinarily inaccurate when he talks about his own travels. Gold- [210 smith, indeed, was so regardless of truth as to assert in print that he was present at a most interesting conversation between Voltaire and Fontenelle, and that this conversation took place at Paris. Now it is certain that Voltaire never was within a hundred leagues of Paris during the whole time which Goldsmith passed on the Continent.

In 1756 the wanderer landed at [220 Dover, without a shilling, without a

friend, and without a calling. He had, indeed, if his own unsupported evidence may be trusted, obtained from the University of Padua a doctor's degree; but this dignity proved utterly useless to him. In England his flute was not in request; there were no convents; and he was forced to have recourse to a series of desperate expedients. He turned strolling [230 player; but his face and figure were ill suited to the boards even of the humblest theatre. He pounded drugs and ran about London with phials for charitable chemists. He joined a swarm of beggars, which made its nest in Axe Yard. He was for a time usher of a school, and felt the miseries and humiliations of this situation so keenly that he thought it a promotion to be permitted to earn his [240 bread as a bookseller's hack; but he soon found the new yoke more galling than the old one, and was glad to become an usher again. He obtained a medical appointment in the service of the East India Company: but the appointment was speedily revoked. Why it was revoked we are not told. The subject was one on which he never liked to talk. It is probable that he was incompetent to per- [250 form the duties of the place. Then he presented himself at Surgeons' Hall for examination, as mate to a naval hospital. Even to so humble a post he was found unequal. By this time the schoolmaster whom he had served for a morsel of food and the third part of a bed was no more. Nothing remained but to return to the lowest drudgery of literature. Goldsmith took a garret in a miserable court, [260 to which he had to climb from the brink of Fleet Ditch by a dizzy ladder of flagstones called Breakneck Steps. The court and the ascent have long disappeared; but old Londoners will remember both. Here, at thirty, the unlucky adventurer sat down to toil like a galley slave.

In the succeeding six years he sent to the press some things which have [270 survived and many which have perished. He produced articles for reviews, magazines, and newspapers; children's books which, bound in gilt paper and adorned with hideous woodcuts, appeared in the

window of the once far-famed shop at the corner of Saint Paul's Churchyard; *An Enquiry into the State of Polite Learning in Europe*, which, though of little or no value, is still reprinted among his [280] works; a *Life of Beau Nash*, which is not reprinted, though it well deserves to be so; a superficial and incorrect, but very readable, *History of England*, in a series of letters purporting to be addressed by a nobleman to his son; and some lively and amusing *Sketches of London Society*, in a series of letters purporting to be addressed by a Chinese traveller to his friends. All these works were anonymous; but some of them were well known to be Goldsmith's; and he gradually rose in the estimation of the booksellers for whom he drudged. He was, indeed, emphatically a popular writer. For accurate research or grave disquisition he was not well qualified by nature or by education. He knew nothing accurately: his reading had been desultory; nor had he meditated deeply on what he had [300] read. He had seen much of the world; but he had noticed and retained little more of what he had seen than some grotesque incidents and characters which had happened to strike his fancy. But, though his mind was very scantily stored with materials, he used what materials he had in such a way as to produce a wonderful effect. There have been many greater writers; but perhaps no writer [310] was ever more uniformly agreeable. His style was always pure and easy, and, on proper occasions, pointed and energetic. His narratives were always amusing, his descriptions always picturesque, his humor rich and joyous, yet not without an occasional tinge of amiable sadness. About everything that he wrote, serious or sportive, there was a certain natural grace and decorum, hardly to be expected [320] from a man a great part of whose life had been passed among thieves and beggars, street-walkers and merry-andrews, in those squalid dens which are the reproach of great capitals.

As his name gradually became known, the circle of his acquaintance widened. He was introduced to Johnson, who was then considered as the first of living Eng-

lish writers; to Reynolds, the first of [330] English painters; and to Burke, who had not yet entered Parliament, but who had distinguished himself greatly by his writings and by the eloquence of his conversation. With these eminent men Goldsmith became intimate. In 1763 he was one of the nine original members of that celebrated fraternity which has sometimes been called the Literary Club, but which has always disclaimed that [340] epithet, and still glories in the simple name of The Club.

By this time Goldsmith had quitted his miserable dwelling at the top of Break-neck Steps, and had taken chambers in the more civilized region of the Inns of Court. But he was still often reduced to pitiable shifts. Towards the close of 1764 his rent was so long in arrear that his landlady one morning called in the [350] help of a sheriff's officer. The debtor, in great perplexity, dispatched a messenger to Johnson; and Johnson, always friendly, though often surly, sent back the messenger with a guinea, and promised to follow speedily. He came, and found that Goldsmith had changed the guinea, and was railing at the landlady over a bottle of Madeira. Johnson put the cork into the bottle, and entreated his [360] friend to consider calmly how money was to be procured. Goldsmith said that he had a novel ready for the press. Johnson glanced at the manuscript, saw that there were good things in it, took it to a bookseller, sold it for £60, and soon returned with the money. The rent was paid; and the sheriff's officer withdrew. According to one story, Goldsmith gave his landlady a sharp reprimand for her [370] treatment of him: according to another, he insisted on her joining him in a bowl of punch. Both stories are probably true. The novel which was thus ushered into the world was the *Vicar of Wakefield*.

But, before the *Vicar of Wakefield* appeared in print, came the great crisis of Goldsmith's literary life. In Christmas week, 1764, he published a poem entitled the *Traveller*. It was the first work [380] to which he had put his name; and it at once raised him to the rank of a legitimate English classic. The opinion of the most

skilful critics was, that nothing finer had appeared in verse since the fourth book of the *Dunciad*. In one respect the *Traveller* differs from all Goldsmith's other writings. In general his designs were bad, and his execution good. In the *Traveller*, the execution, though de- [390] serving of much praise, is far inferior to the design. No philosophical poem, ancient or modern, has a plan so noble, and at the same time so simple. An English wanderer, seated on a crag among the Alps, near the point where three great countries meet, looks down on the boundless prospect, reviews his long pilgrimage, recalls the varieties of scenery, of climate, of government, of religion, of national [400] character, which he has observed, and comes to the conclusion, just or unjust, that our happiness depends little on political institutions, and much on the temper and regulation of our own minds.

While the fourth edition of the *Traveller* was on the counters of the booksellers, the *Vicar of Wakefield* appeared, and rapidly obtained a popularity which has lasted down to our own time, and [410] which is likely to last as long as our language. The fable is indeed one of the worst that ever was constructed. It wants, not merely that probability which ought to be found in a tale of common English life, but that consistency which ought to be found even in the wildest fiction about witches, giants, and fairies. But the earlier chapters have all the sweetness of pastoral poetry, together [420] with all the vivacity of comedy. Moses and his spectacles, the vicar and his monogamy, the sharper and his cosmogony, the squire proving from Aristotle that relatives are related, Olivia preparing herself for the arduous task of converting a rakish lover by studying the controversy between Robinson Crusoe and Friday, the great ladies with their scandal about Sir Tomkyn's amours and Dr. Bur- [430] dock's verses, and Mr. Burchell with his "Fudge," have caused as much harmless mirth as has ever been caused by matter packed into so small a number of pages. The latter part of the tale is unworthy of the beginning. As we approach the catastrophe, the absurdities lie thicker

and thicker; and the gleams of pleasantry become rarer and rarer.

The success which had attended [440] Goldsmith as a novelist emboldened him to try his fortune as a dramatist. He wrote the *Goodnatured Man*, a piece which had a worse fate than it deserved. Garrick refused to produce it at Drury Lane. It was acted at Covent Garden in 1768, but was coldly received. The author, however, cleared by his benefit nights, and by the sale of the copyright, no less than £500, five times as much as he [450] had made by the *Traveller* and the *Vicar of Wakefield* together. The plot of the *Goodnatured Man* is, like almost all Goldsmith's plots, very ill constructed. But some passages are exquisitely ludicrous; much more ludicrous, indeed, than suited the taste of the town at that time. A canting, mawkish play, entitled *False Delicacy*, had just had an immense run. Sentimentality was all the mode. [460] During some years, more tears were shed at comedies than at tragedies; and a pleasantry which moved the audience to anything more than a grave smile was reprobated as low. It is not strange, therefore, that the very best scene in the *Goodnatured Man*, that in which Miss Richland finds her lover attended by the bailiff and the bailiff's follower in full court dresses, should have been merci- [470] lessly hissed, and should have been omitted after the first night.

In 1770 appeared the *Deserted Village*. In mere diction and versification this celebrated poem is fully equal, perhaps superior, to the *Traveller*, and it is generally preferred to the *Traveller* by that large class of readers who think, with Bayes in the *Rehearsal*, that the only use of a plan is to bring in fine things. [480] More discerning judges, however, while they admire the beauty of the details, are shocked by one unpardonable fault which pervades the whole. The fault we mean is not that theory about wealth and luxury which has so often been censured by political economists. The theory is indeed false; but the poem, considered merely as a poem, is not necessarily the worse on that account. The finest [490] poem in the Latin language, indeed the

finest didactic poem in any language, was written in defence of the silliest and meanest of all systems of natural and moral philosophy. A poet may easily be pardoned for reasoning ill; but he cannot be pardoned for describing ill, for observing the world in which he lives so carelessly that his portraits bear no resemblance to the originals, for exhibiting as copies from real life monstrous combinations of things which never were and never could be found together. What would be thought of a painter who should mix August and January in one landscape, who should introduce a frozen river into a harvest scene? Would it be a sufficient defence of such a picture to say that every part was exquisitely colored, that the green hedges, the apple-trees loaded with fruit, the wagons reeling under the yellow sheaves, and the sunburned reapers wiping their foreheads, were very fine, and that the ice and the boys sliding were also very fine? To such a picture the *Deserted Village* bears a great resemblance. It is made up of incongruous parts. The village in its happy days is a true English village. The village in its decay is an Irish village. The felicity and the misery which Goldsmith has brought close together belong to two different countries, and to two different stages in the progress of society. He had assuredly never seen in his native island such a rural paradise, such a seat of plenty, content, and tranquillity, as his "Auburn." He had assuredly never seen in England all the inhabitants of such a paradise turned out of their homes in one day and forced to emigrate in a body to America. The hamlet he had probably seen in Kent; the ejection he had probably seen in Munster; but, by joining the two, he has produced something which never was and never will be seen in any part of the world.

In 1773 Goldsmith tried his chance at Covent Garden with a second play, *She Stoops to Conquer*. The manager was not without great difficulty induced to bring this piece out. The sentimental comedy still reigned; and Goldsmith's comedies were not sentimental. The *Good-natured Man* had been too funny to suc-

ceed; yet the mirth of the *Good-natured Man* was sober when compared with the rich drollery of *She Stoops to Conquer*, which is, in truth, an incomparable farce in five acts. On this occasion, however, genius triumphed. Pit, boxes, and galleries were in a constant roar of laughter. If any bigoted admirer of Kelly and Cumberland ventured to hiss or groan, he was speedily silenced by a general cry of "Turn him out," or "Throw him over." Two generations have since confirmed the verdict which was pronounced on that night.

While Goldsmith was writing the *Deserted Village* and *She Stoops to Conquer*, he was employed in works of a very different kind, works from which he derived little reputation but much profit. He compiled for the use of schools a *History of Rome*, by which he made £300; a *History of England*, by which he made £600; a *History of Greece*, for which he received £250; a *Natural History*, for which the booksellers covenanted to pay him 800 guineas. These works he produced without any elaborate research, by merely selecting, abridging, and translating into his own clear, pure, and flowing language what he found in books well known to the world, but too bulky or too dry for boys and girls. He committed some strange blunders; for he knew nothing with accuracy. Thus in his *History of England* he tells us that Naseby is in Yorkshire; nor did he correct this mistake when the book was reprinted. He was very nearly hoaxed into putting into the *History of Greece* an account of a battle between Alexander the Great and Montezuma. In his *Animated Nature* he relates, with faith and with perfect gravity, all the most absurd lies which he could find in books of travels about gigantic Patagonians, monkeys that preach sermons, nightingales that repeat long conversations. "If he can tell a horse from a cow," said Johnson, "that is the extent of his knowledge of zoology." How little Goldsmith was qualified to write about the physical sciences is sufficiently proved by two anecdotes. He on one occasion denied that the sun is longer in the northern than in the southern

signs. It was in vain to cite the authority of Maupertuis. "Maupertuis!" he cried; "I understand those matters better than Maupertuis." On another occasion he, in defiance of the evidence of his own senses, maintained obstinately, and even angrily, that he chewed his dinner by moving his upper jaw.

Yet, ignorant as Goldsmith was, few writers have done more to make the first steps in the laborious road to knowledge easy and pleasant. His compilations are widely distinguished from the compilations of ordinary bookmakers. He was a great, perhaps an unequalled, master of the arts of selection and condensation. In these respects his histories of Rome and of England, and still more his own abridgments of these histories, well deserve to be studied. In general nothing is less attractive than an epitome; but the epitomes of Goldsmith, even when most concise, are always amusing; and to read them is considered by intelligent children, not as a task, but as a pleasure.

Goldsmith might now be considered as a prosperous man. He had the means of living in comfort, and even in what to one who had so often slept in barns and on bulks must have been luxury. His fame was great and was constantly rising. He lived in what was intellectually far the best society of the kingdom, in a society in which no talent or accomplishment was wanting, and in which the art of conversation was cultivated with splendid success. There probably were never four talkers more admirable in four different ways than Johnson, Burke, Beauclerk, and Garrick; and Goldsmith was on terms of intimacy with all the four. He aspired to share in their colloquial renown; but never was ambition more unfortunate. It may seem strange that a man who wrote with so much perspicuity, vivacity, and grace should have been, whenever he took a part in conversation, an empty, noisy, blundering rattle. But on this point the evidence is overwhelming. So extraordinary was the contrast between Goldsmith's published works and the silly things which he said, that Horace Walpole de-

scribed him as an inspired idiot. "Noll," said Garrick, "wrote like an angel, and talked like poor Poll." Chamier declared that it was a hard exercise of faith to believe that so foolish a chatterer could have really written the *Traveller*. Even Boswell could say, with contemptuous compassion, that he liked very well to hear honest Goldsmith run on. "Yes, sir," said Johnson; "but he should not like to hear himself." Minds differ as rivers differ. There are transparent and sparkling rivers from which it is delightful to drink as they flow; to such rivers the minds of such men as Burke and Johnson may be compared. But there are rivers of which the water when first drawn is turbid and noisome, but becomes pellucid as crystal, and delicious to the taste, if it be suffered to stand till it has deposited a sediment; and such a river is a type of the mind of Goldsmith. His first thoughts on every subject were confused even to absurdity; but they required only a little time to work themselves clear. When he wrote they had that time; and therefore his readers pronounced him a man of genius; but when he talked he talked nonsense, and made himself the laughing-stock of his hearers. He was painfully sensible of his inferiority in conversation; he felt every failure keenly; yet he had not sufficient judgment and self-command to hold his tongue. His animal spirits and vanity were always impelling him to try to do the one thing which he could not do. After every attempt he felt he had exposed himself, and writhed with shame and vexation; yet the next moment he began again.

His associates seem to have regarded him with kindness, which, in spite of their admiration of his writings, was not unmixed with contempt. In truth, there was in his character much to love, but very little to respect. His heart was soft, even to weakness: he was so generous that he quite forgot to be just; he forgave injuries so readily that he might be said to invite them: and was so liberal to beggars that he had nothing left for his tailor and his butcher. He was vain, sensual, frivolous, profuse, improvident.

One vice of a darker shade was imputed to him, envy. But there is not the least reason to believe that this bad passion, though it sometimes made him wince and utter fretful exclamations, ever impelled him to injure by wicked arts the reputation of any of his rivals. The truth probably is, that he was not more envious, but merely less prudent than his neighbors. His heart was on his lips. All those small jealousies, which are but too common among men of letters, but which a man of letters who is [720] also a man of the world does his best to conceal, Goldsmith avowed with the simplicity of a child. When he was envious, instead of affecting indifference, instead of damning with faint praise, instead of doing injuries slyly and in the dark, he told everybody that he was envious. "Do not, pray, do not talk of Johnson in such terms," he said to Boswell; "you harrow up my very soul." [730] George Steevens and Cumberland were men far too cunning to say such a thing. They would have echoed the praises of the man they envied, and then have sent to the newspapers anonymous libels upon him. Both what was good and what was bad in Goldsmith's character was to his associates a perfect security that he would never commit such villainy. He was neither ill-natured enough, nor [740] long-headed enough to be guilty of any malicious act which required contrivance and disguise.

Goldsmith has sometimes been represented as a man of genius, cruelly treated by the world, and doomed to struggle with difficulties which at last broke his heart. But no representation can be more remote from the truth. He did, indeed, go through much sharp [750] misery before he had done anything considerable in literature. But, after his name had appeared on the title-page of the *Traveller*, he had none to blame but himself for his distresses. His average income during the last seven years of his life certainly exceeded £400 a year; and £400 a year ranked, among the incomes of that day, at least as high as £800 a year would rank at present. A single [760] man living in the Temple with £400 a

year might then be called opulent. Not one in ten of the young gentlemen of good families who were studying the law there had so much. But all the wealth which Lord Clive had brought from Bengal, and Sir Lawrence Dundas from Germany, joined together, would not have sufficed for Goldsmith. He spent twice as much as he had. He wore [770] fine clothes, gave dinners of several courses, paid court to venal beauties. He had also, it should be remembered, to the honor of his heart, though not of his head, a guinea, or five, or ten, according to the state of his purse, ready for any tale of distress, true or false. But it was not in dress or feasting, in promiscuous amours or promiscuous charities, that his chief expense lay. He had been [780] from boyhood a gambler, and at once the most sanguine and the most unskilful of gamblers. For a time he put off the day of inevitable ruin by temporary expedients. He obtained advances from booksellers, by promising to execute works which he never began. But at length this source of supply failed. He owed more than £2,000; and he saw no hope of extrication from his embarrassments. [790] His spirits and health gave way. He was attacked by a nervous fever, which he thought himself competent to treat. It would have been happy for him if his medical skill had been appreciated as justly by himself as by others. Notwithstanding the degree which he pretended to have received at Padua, he could procure no patients. "I do not practice," he once said; "I make it a rule to pre- [800] scribe only for my friends." "Pray, dear Doctor," said Beauclerk, "alter your rule, and prescribe only for your enemies." Goldsmith now, in spite of this excellent advice, prescribed for himself. The remedy aggravated the malady. The sick man was induced to call in real physicians; and they at one time imagined that they had cured the disease. Still his weakness and restlessness continued. He could [810] get no sleep, he could take no food. "You are worse," said one of his medical attendants, "than you should be from the degree of fever which you have. Is your mind at ease?" "No, it is not," were

the last recorded words of Oliver Goldsmith. He died on the 3rd of April, 1774, in his forty-sixth year. He was laid in the churchyard of the Temple; but the spot was not marked by any inscription, and is now forgotten. The coffin was followed by Burke and Reynolds. Both these great men were sincere mourners. Burke, when he heard of Goldsmith's death, had burst into a flood of tears. Reynolds had been so much moved by the news that he had flung aside his brush and palette for the day.

A short time after Goldsmith's death, a little poem appeared, which will, as [830 long as our language lasts, associate the names of his two illustrious friends with his own. It has already been mentioned that he sometimes felt keenly the sarcasm which his wild blundering talk brought upon him. He was, not long before his last illness, provoked into retaliating. He wisely betook himself to his pen; and at that weapon he proved himself a match for all his assailants together. Within [840 a small compass he drew with a singularly easy and vigorous pencil the characters of nine or ten of his intimate associates. Though this little work did not receive his last touches, it must always be regarded as a masterpiece. It is impossible, however, not to wish that four or five likenesses which have no interest for posterity were wanting to that noble gallery, and that their places were supplied [850 by sketches of Johnson and Gibbon, as happy and vivid as the sketches of Burke and Garrick.

Some of Goldsmith's friends and admirers honored him with a cenotaph in Westminster Abbey. Nollekens was the sculptor; and Johnson wrote the inscription. It is much to be lamented that Johnson did not leave to posterity a more durable and a more valuable memorial [860 of his friend. A life of Goldsmith would have been an inestimable addition to the Lives of the Poets. No man appreciated Goldsmith's writings more justly than Johnson: no man was better acquainted with Goldsmith's character and habits: and no man was more competent to delineate with truth and spirit the peculiarities of a mind in which great powers

were found in company with great [870 weaknesses. But the list of poets to whose works Johnson was requested by the booksellers to furnish prefaces ended with Lyttleton, who died in 1773. The line seems to have been drawn expressly for the purpose of excluding the person whose portrait would have most fitly closed the series. Goldsmith, however, has been fortunate in his biographers. Within a few years his life has been [880 written by Mr. Prior, by Mr. Washington Irving, and by Mr. Forster. The diligence of Mr. Prior deserves great praise; the style of Mr. Washington Irving is always pleasing; but the highest place must, in justice, be assigned to the eminently interesting work of Mr. Forster.

ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH' (1819-1861)

QUA CURSUM VENTUS

As ships, becalmed at eve, that lay
With canvas drooping, side by side,
Two towers of sail at dawn of day
Are scarce long leagues apart descried; 4

When fell the night, upsprung the breeze,
And all the darkling hours they plied,
Nor dreamt but each the self-same seas
By each was cleaving, side by side:

E'en so—but why the tale reveal
Of those, whom year by year unchanged,
Brief absence joined anew to feel, 11
Astounded, soul from soul estranged?

At dead of night their sails were filled,
And onward each rejoicing steered—
Ah, neither blame, for neither willed, 15
Or wist, what first with dawn appeared!

To veer, how vain! On, onward strain,
Brave barks! In light, in darkness too,
Through winds and tides one compass
guides—
To that, and your own selves, be true. 20

But O blithe breeze; and O great seas,
Though ne'er, that earliest parting past,
On your wide plain they join again,
Together lead them home at last.

One port, methought, alike they sought, 25
 One purpose hold where'er they fare,—
 O bounding breeze, O rushing seas!
 At last, at last, unite them there!

WHERE LIES THE LAND

Where lies the land to which the ship
 would go?

Far, far ahead, is all her seamen know.
 And where the land she travels from?
 Away,

Far, far behind, is all that they can say.

On sunny noons upon the deck's smooth
 face, 5

Linked arm in arm, how pleasant here to
 pace;

Or, o'er the stern reclining, watch below
 The foaming wake far widening as we go.

On stormy nights when wild northwesterners
 rave,

How proud a thing to fight with wind and
 wave! 10

The dripping sailor on the reeling mast
 Exults to bear, and scorns to wish it
 past.

Where lies the land to which the ship
 would go?

Far, far ahead, is all her seamen know.
 And where the land she travels from?
 Away, 15

Far, far behind, is all that they can say.

ALL IS WELL

Whate'er you dream, with doubt possessed,
 Keep, keep it snug within your breast,
 And lay you down and take your rest;
 Forget in sleep the doubt and pain,
 And when you wake, to work again. 5
 The wind it blows, the vessel goes,
 And where and whither, no one knows.

'Twill all be well: no need of care;
 Though how it will, and when, and
 where,
 We cannot see, and can't declare. 10

In spite of dreams, in spite of thought,
 'Tis not in vain, and not for nought,
 The wind it blows, the ship it goes,
 Though where and whither, no one knows.

LIFE IS STRUGGLE

To wear out heart, and nerves, and brain,
 And give oneself a world of pain;
 Be eager, angry, fierce, and hot,
 Imperious, supple—God knows what,
 For what's all one to have or not; 5
 O false, unwise, absurd, and vain!
 For 'tis not joy, it is not gain,
 It is not in itself a bliss,
 Only it is precisely this
 That keeps us all alive. 10

To say we truly feel the pain,
 And quite are sinking with the strain;—
 Entirely, simply, undeceived,
 Believe, and say we ne'er believed
 The object, e'en were it achieved, 15
 A thing we e'er had cared to keep;
 With heart and soul to hold it cheap,
 And then to go and try it again;
 O false, unwise, absurd, and vain!
 O, 'tis not joy, and 'tis not bliss, 20
 Only it is precisely this
 That keeps us still alive.

ITE DOMUM SATURÆ, VENIT HESPERUS

The skies have sunk, and hid the upper
 snow
 (Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
 La Palie),
 The rainy clouds are filing fast below,
 And wet will be the path, and wet shall
 we.
 Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
 La Palie. 5

Ah dear, and where is he, a year ago,
 Who stepped beside and cheered us on
 and on?

My sweetheart wanders far away from me,
 In foreign land or on a foreign sea,
 Home, Rose, and home, Provence and La
 Palie. 10

The lightning zigzags shoot across the sky
(Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie),

And through the vale the rains go sweep-
ing by;

Ah me, and when in shelter shall we be?
Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie. 15

Cold, dreary cold, the stormy winds feel
they

O'er foreign lands and foreign seas that
stray

(Home, Rose, and home, Provence and La
Palie).

And doth he e'er, I wonder, bring to mind
The pleasant huts and herds he left be-
hind? 20

And doth he sometimes in his slumbering
see

The feeding kine, and doth he think of
me,

My sweetheart wandering wheresoe'er it
be?

Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie.

The thunder bellows far from snow to
snow 25

(Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie),

And loud and louder roars the flood be-
low.

Heigho! but soon in shelter shall we be:
Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie.

Or shall he find before his term be sped 30
Some comelier maid that he shall wish to
wed?

(Home, Rose, and home, Provence and La
Palie.)

For weary is work, and weary day by day
To have your comfort miles on miles
away.

Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie. 35

Or may it be that I shall find my mate,
And he returning see himself too late?

For work we must, and what we see, we
see,

And God he knows, and what must be,
must be,

When sweethearts wander far away from
me. 40

Home, Rose, and home, Provence and La
Palie.

The sky behind is brightening up anew
(Home, Rose, and home, Provence and
La Palie),

The rain is ending, and our journey too:
Heigho! aha! for here at home are we:— 45
In, Rose, and in, Provence and La Palie.

SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NOUGHT AVAILETH

Say not the struggle nought availeth,
The labor and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars; 5
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain, 10
Far back, through creeks and inlets mak-
ing,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the
light, 14
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

MATTHEW ARNOLD (1822-1888)

SHAKESPEARE

Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask—Thou smilest and art
still,
Out-topping knowledge. For the loftiest
hill

Who to the stars uncrowns his majesty,
Planting his steadfast footsteps in the sea, 5
Making the heaven of heavens his dwell-
ing-place,
Spares but the cloudy border of his base
To the foiled searching of mortality;

And thou, who didst the stars and sun-
 beams know,
 Self-schooled, self-scanned, self-honored,
 self-secure, 10
 Didst tread on earth unguessed at.—
 Better so!
 All pains the immortal spirit must endure,
 All weakness which impairs, all griefs
 which bow,
 Find their sole speech in that victorious
 brow.

THE FORSAKEN MERMAN

Come, dear children, let us away,
 Down and away below!
 Now my brothers call from the bay,
 Now the great winds shoreward blow,
 Now the salt tides seaward flow, 5
 Now the wild white horses play,
 Champ and chafe and toss in the spray;
 Children dear, let us away!
 This way, this way!

Call her once before you go— 10
 Call once yet!
 In a voice that she will know:
 "Margaret! Margaret!"
 Children's voices should be dear
 (Call once more!) to a mother's ear; 15
 Children's voices, wild with pain—
 Surely she will come again!
 Call her once and come away;
 This way, this way!
 "Mother dear, we cannot stay; 20
 The wild white horses foam and fret."
 Margaret! Margaret!

Come, dear children, come away down;
 Call no more!
 One last look at the white-walled town, 25
 And the little gray church on the windy
 shore;
 Then come down!
 She will not come though you call all day:
 Come away, come away!

Children dear, was it yesterday 30
 We heard the sweet bells over the bay?
 In the caverns where we lay,
 Through the surf and through the swell,
 The far-off sound of a silver bell?

Sand-strewn caverns, cool and deep, 35
 Where the winds are all asleep;
 Where the spent lights quiver and gleam,
 Where the salt weed sways in the stream,
 Where the sea-beasts, ranged all round,
 Feed in the ooze of their pasture-
 ground; 40
 Where the sea-snakes coil and twine,
 Dry their mail and bask in the brine:
 Where great whales come sailing by,
 Sail and sail, with unshut eye,
 Round the world for ever and aye? 45
 When did music come this way?
 Children dear, was it yesterday?

Children dear, was it yesterday
 (Call yet once!) that she went away?
 Once she sate with you and me, 50
 On a red gold throne in the heart of the
 sea,
 And the youngest sate on her knee.
 She combed its bright hair, and she
 tended it well,
 When down swung the sound of a far-off
 bell.
 She sighed, she looked up through the
 clear green sea; 55
 She said: "I must go, for my kinsfolk
 pray
 In the little gray church on the shore to-
 day.
 'Twill be Easter-time in the world, ah
 me!
 And I lose my poor soul, Merman! here
 with thee."
 I said: "Go up, dear heart, through the
 waves; 60
 Say thy prayer, and come back to the
 kind sea-caves!"
 She smiled, she went up through the surf
 in the bay.
 Children dear, was it yesterday?

Children dear, were we long alone?
 "The sea grows stormy, the little ones
 moan; 65
 Long prayers," I said, "in the world they
 say;
 Come!" I said; and we rose through the
 surf in the bay.
 We went up the beach, by the sandy
 down
 Where the sea-stocks bloom, to the white-
 walled town;

Through the narrow paved streets, where
 all was still, 70
 To the little gray church on the windy
 hill.
 From the church came a murmur of folk
 at their prayers,
 But we stood without in the cold blowing
 airs.
 We climbed on the graves, on the stones
 worn with rains,
 And we gazed up the aisle through the
 small leaded panes. 75
 She sate by the pillar; we saw her clear:
 "Margaret, hist! come quick, we are
 here!
 Dear heart," I said, "we are long alone;
 The sea grows stormy, the little ones
 moan."
 But, ah, she gave me never a look, 80
 For her eyes were sealed to the holy
 book!
 Loud prays the priest; shut stands the
 door.
 Come away, children, call no more!
 Come away, come down, call no more!
 Down, down, down! 85
 Down to the depths of the sea!
 She sits at her wheel in the humming
 town,
 Singing most joyfully.
 Hark what she sings: "O joy, O joy,
 For the humming street, and the child
 with its toy! 90
 For the priest, and the bell, and the holy
 well;
 For the wheel where I spun,
 And the blessed light of the sun!"
 And so she sings her fill,
 Singing most joyfully, 95
 Till the spindle drops from her hand,
 And the whizzing wheel stands still.
 She steals to the window, and looks at the
 sand,
 And over the sand at the sea;
 And her eyes are set in a stare; 100
 And anon there breaks a sigh,
 And anon there drops a tear,
 From a sorrow-clouded eye,
 And a heart sorrow-laden;
 A long, long sigh 105
 For the cold strange eyes of a little Mer-
 maiden
 And the gleam of her golden hair.

Come away, away, children;
 Come, children, come down! 110
 The hoarse wind blows colder;
 Lights shine in the town.
 She will start from her slumber
 When gusts shake the door;
 She will hear the winds howling,
 Will hear the waves roar. 115
 We shall see, while above us
 The waves roar and whirl,
 A ceiling of amber,
 A pavement of pearl.
 Singing: "Here came a mortal, 120
 But faithless was she!
 And alone dwell for ever
 The kings of the sea."

But, children, at midnight,
 When soft the winds blow, 125
 When clear falls the moonlight,
 When spring-tides are low;
 When sweet airs come seaward
 From heaths starred with broom,
 And high rocks throw mildly 130
 On the blanched sands a gloom;
 Up the still, glistening beaches,
 Up the creeks we will hie,
 Over banks of bright seaweed
 The ebb-tide leaves dry. 135
 We will gaze, from the sand-hills,
 At the white, sleeping town;
 At the church on the hill-side:
 And then come back down,
 Singing: "There dwells a loved one, 140
 But cruel is she!
 She left lonely for ever
 The kings of the sea."

PHILOMELA

Hark! ah, the nightingale—
 The tawny-throated!
 Hark, from that moonlit cedar what a
 burst!
 What triumph! hark!—what pain!
 O wanderer from a Grecian shore, 5
 Still, after many years, in distant
 lands,
 Still nourishing in thy bewildered brain
 That wild, unquenched, deep-sunken, old-
 world pain—
 Say, will it never heal?

And can this fragrant lawn 10
 With its cool trees, and night,
 And the sweet, tranquil Thames,
 And moonshine, and the dew,
 To thy racked heart and brain
 Afford no balm? 15

Dost thou to-night behold
 Here, through the moonlight on this
 English grass,
 The unfriendly palace in the Thracian
 wild?

Dost thou again peruse
 With hot cheeks and seared eyes 20
 The too clear web, and thy dumb sister's
 shame?

Dost thou once more assay
 Thy flight, and feel come over thee,
 Poor fugitive, the feathery change
 Once more, and once more seem to make
 resound 25

With love and hate, triumph and agony,
 Lone Daulis, and the high Cephissian
 vale?

Listen, Eugenia—
 How thick the bursts come crowding
 through the leaves!

Again—thou hearest? 30
 Eternal passion!
 Eternal pain!

REQUIESCAT

Strew on her roses, roses,
 And never a spray of yew!
 In quiet she reposes;
 Ah, would that I did too!

Her mirth the world required; 5
 She bathed it in smiles of glee.
 But her heart was tired, tired,
 And now they let her be.

Her life was turning, turning,
 In mazes of heat and sound; 10
 But for peace her soul was yearning,
 And now peace laps her round.

Her cabined, ample spirit,
 It fluttered and failed for breath;
 To-night it doth inherit 15
 The vasty hall of death.

THE SCHOLAR-GIPSY

Go, for they call you, shepherd, from the
 hill;
 Go, shepherd, and untie the wattled¹
 cotes;

No longer leave thy wistful flock un-
 fed,

Nor let thy bawling fellows rack their
 throats,

Nor the cropped herbage shoot
 another head. 5

But when the fields are still,
 And the tired men and dogs all gone to
 rest,

And only the white sheep are some-
 times seen

Cross and recross the strips of
 moonblanched green,

Come, shepherd, and again begin the
 quest! 10

Here, where the reaper was at work of
 late—

In this high field's dark corner, where he
 leaves

His coat, his basket, and his
 earthen cruse,

And in the sun all morning binds the
 sheaves,

Then here, at noon, comes back his
 stores to use— 15

Here will I sit and wait,
 While to my ear from uplands far
 away

The bleating of the folded flocks is
 borne,

With distant cries of reapers in the
 corn—

All the live murmur of a summer's
 day. 20

Screened is this nook o'er the high, half-
 reaped field,

And here till sun-down, shepherd, will
 I be.

Through the thick corn the scarlet
 poppies peep,

And round green roots and yellowing
 stalks I see

Pale blue convolvulus in tendrils
 creep; 25

And air-sweet lindens yield

¹ made of interwoven twigs or branches.

Their scent, and rustle down their per-
 fumed showers
 Of bloom on the bent grass where I
 am laid,
 And bower me from the August sun
 with shade;
 And the eye travels down to Oxford's
 towers. 30

And near me on the grass lies Glanvil's
 book—
 Come, let me read the oft-read tale
 again!
 The story of that Oxford scholar poor,
 Of pregnant parts and quick inventive
 brain,
 Who, tired of knocking at prefer-
 ment's door, 35
 One summer-morn forsook
 His friends, and went to learn the gipsy
 lore,
 And roamed the world with that wild
 brotherhood,
 And came, as most men deemed, to
 little good,
 But came to Oxford and his friends no
 more. 40

But once, years after, in the country-
 lanes,
 Two scholars, whom at college erst he
 knew,
 Met him, and of his way of life in-
 quired;
 Whereat he answered, that the gipsy-
 crew,
 His mates, had arts to rule as they de-
 sired 45
 The workings of men's brains,
 And they can bind them to what
 thoughts they will.
 "And I," he said, "the secret of their
 art,
 When fully learned, will to the world
 impart;
 But it needs heaven-sent moments for
 this skill." 50

This said, he left them, and returned no
 more.—
 But rumors hung about the country-
 side,
 That the lost Scholar long was seen
 to stray,

Seen by rare glimpses, pensive and
 tongue-tied,
 In hat of antiq̃ue shape, and cloak of
 gray, 55
 The same the gipsies wore.
 Shepherds had met him on the Hurst
 in spring;
 At some lone alehouse in the Berk-
 shire moors,
 On the warm ingle-bench,¹ the smock-
 frocked boors
 Had found him seated at their enter-
 ing. 60

But, 'mid their drink and clatter, he
 would fly.
 And I myself seem half to know thy
 looks,
 And put the shepherds, wanderer, on
 thy trace;
 And boys who in lone wheat fields scare
 the rooks
 I ask if thou hast passed their quiet
 place; 65
 Or in my boat I lie
 Moored to the cool bank in the summer
 heats,
 'Mid wide grass meadows which the
 sunshine fills,
 And watch the warm, green-muffled
 Cumner hills,
 And wonder if thou haunt'st their shy
 retreats. 70

For most, I know, thou lov'st retirèd
 ground!
 Thee at the ferry Oxford riders blithe,
 Returning home on summer-nights,
 have met
 Crossing the stripling Thames at Bab-
 lock-hithe,
 Trailing in the cool stream thy fingers
 wet, 75
 As the punt's² rope chops round:
 And leaning backward in a pensive
 dream,
 And fostering in thy lap a heap of
 flowers
 Plucked in shy fields and distant
 Wychwood bowers,
 And thine eyes resting on the moonlit
 stream. 80

¹ fireside bench.² small, flat-bottomed boat.

And then they land, and thou art seen no more.

Maidens, who from the distant hamlets come

To dance around the Fyfield elm in May,

Oft through the darkening fields have seen thee roam,

Or cross a stile into the public way. 85

Oft thou hast given them store
Of flowers—the frail-leaved, white anemone,

Dark bluebells drenched with dews of summer eves,

And purple orchises with spotted leaves—

But none hath words she can report of thee. 90

And, above Godstow Bridge, when hay-time's here

In June, and many a scythe in sunshine flames,

Men who through those wide fields of breezy grass

Where black-winged swallows haunt the glittering Thames,

To bathe in the abandoned lasher pass, 95

Have often passed thee near,
Sitting upon the river bank o'ergrown;

Marked thine outlandish garb, thy figure spare,

Thy dark vague eyes, and soft abstracted air—

But, when they came from bathing, thou wast gone. 100

At some lone homestead in the Cumner hills,

Where at her open door the housewife darts,

Thou hast been seen, or hanging on a gate

To watch the threshers in the mossy barns.

Children, who early range these slopes and late 105

For cresses from the rills,
Have known thee eying, all an April-day,

The springing pastures and the feeding kine;

And marked thee, when the stars come out and shine,

Through the long dewy grass move slow away. 110

In autumn, on the skirts of Bagley Wood—
Where most the gipsies by the turf-edged way

Pitch their smoked tents, and every bush you see

With scarlet patches tagged and shreds of gray,

Above the forest-ground called Thes-saly— 115

The blackbird, picking food,
Sees thee, nor stops his meal, nor fears at all;

So often has he known thee past him stray,

Rapt, twirling in thy hand a withered spray,

And waiting for the spark from heaven to fall. 120

And once, in winter, on the causeway chill
Where home through flooded fields foot-travelers go,

Have I not passed thee on the wooden bridge

Wrapped in thy cloak and battling with the snow,

Thy face toward Hinksey and its wintry ridge? 125

And thou hast climbed the hill,
And gained the white brow of the Cumner range;

Turned once to watch, while thick the snowflakes fall,

The line of festal light in Christ-Church hall—

Then sought thy straw in some sequestered grange. 130

But what—I dream! Two hundred years are flown

Since first thy story ran through Oxford halls,

And the grave Glanvil did the tale inscribe

That thou wert wandered from the studious walls

To learn strange arts, and join a gipsy-tribe; 135

And thou from earth art gone

Long since, and in some quiet church-
yard laid—
Some country-nook, where o'er thy
unknown grave
Tall grasses and white flowering
nettles wave,
Under a dark, red-fruited yew-tree's
shade. 140

—No, no, thou hast not felt the lapse of
hours!

For what wears out the life of mortal
men?

'Tis that from change to change
their being rolls;

'Tis that repeated shocks, again, again,
Exhaust the energy of strongest
souls, 145

And numb the elastic powers
Till having used our nerves with bliss
and teen,¹

And tired upon a thousand schemes
our wit,

To the just-pausing Genius we remit
Our worn-out life, and are—what we
have been. 150

Thou hast not lived, why should'st thou
perish, so?

Thou had'st *one* aim, *one* business, *one*
desire;

Else wert thou long since numbered
with the dead,

Else hadst thou spent, like other men,
thy fire,

The generations of thy peers are
fled, 155

And we ourselves shall go;

But thou possessest an immortal lot,
And we imagine thee exempt from
age,

And living as thou liv'st on Glan-
vil's page,

Because thou hadst—what we, alas!
have not. 160

For early didst thou leave the world, with
powers

Fresh, undiverted to the world without,
Firm to their mark, not spent on
other things;

Free from the sick fatigue, the languid
doubt,

¹ sorrow.

Which much to have tried, in much
been baffled, brings. 165

O life unlike to ours!

Who fluctuate idly without term or
scope,

Of whom each strives, nor knows for
what he strives,

And each half lives a hundred differ-
ent lives;

Who wait like thee, but not, like thee,
in hope. 170

Thou waitest for the spark from heaven:
and we,

Light half-believers of our casual creeds,
Who never deeply felt, nor clearly
willed,

Whose insight never has borne fruit in
deeds,

Whose vague resolves never have
been fulfilled; 175

For whom each year we see
Breeds new beginnings, disappoint-
ments new;

Who hesitate and falter life away,
And lose to-morrow the ground won
to-day—

Ah, do not we, wanderer, await it too?

Yes, we await it, but it still delays, 181
And then we suffer; and amongst us one,

Who most has suffered, takes deject-
edly

His seat upon the intellectual throne;
And all his store of sad experience he

Lays bare of wretched days; 186
Tells us his misery's birth and growth
and signs,

And how the dying spark of hope was
fed,

And how the breast was soothed, and
how the head,

And all his hourly varied anodynes. 190

This for our wisest! and we others pine,
And wish the long unhappy dream would
end,

And waive all claim to bliss, and try
to bear;

With close-lipped patience for our only
friend,

Sad patience, too near neighbor to
despair— 195

But none has hope like thine.

Thou through the fields and through
 the woods dost stray,
 Roaming the country-side, a truant
 boy,
 Nursing thy project in unclouded joy,
 And every doubt long blown by time
 away. 200

O born in days when wits were fresh and
 clear,
 And life ran gaily as the sparkling
 Thames;
 Before this strange disease of modern
 life,
 With its sick hurry, its divided aims,
 Its heads o'ertaxed, its palsied hearts,
 was rife— 205
 Fly hence, our contact fear!
 Still fly, plunge deeper in the bowering
 wood!
 Averse, as Dido did with gesture
 stern
 From her false friend's approach in
 Hades turn,
 Wave us away, and keep thy solitude. 210

Still nursing the unconquerable hope,
 Still clutching the inviolable shade,
 With a free, onward impulse brushing
 through,
 By night, the silvered branches of the
 glade—
 Far on the forest-skirts, where none
 pursue, 215
 On some mild pastoral slope
 Emerge, and resting on the moonlit
 pales,
 Freshen thy flowers as in former
 years
 With dew, or listen with enchanted
 ears,
 From the dark dingles, to the night-
 ingales. 220

But fly our paths, our feverish contact fly!
 For strong the infection of our mental
 strife,
 Which, though it gives no bliss, yet
 spoils for rest;
 And we should win thee from thy own
 fair life,
 Like us distracted, and like us un-
 blest. 225
 Soon, soon thy cheer would die,

Thy hopes grow timorous, and unfixed
 thy powers,
 And thy clear aims be cross and shift-
 ing made;
 And then thy glad perennial youth
 would fade,
 Fade, and grow old at last, and die like
 ours. 230

Then fly our greetings, fly our speech and
 smiles!
 —As some grave Tyrian trader, from the
 sea,
 Descried at sunrise an emerging prow
 Lifting the cool-haired creepers stealth-
 ily,
 The fringes of a southward-facing
 brow 235
 Among the Ægean isles;
 And saw the merry Grecian coaster come,
 Freighted with amber grapes, and
 Chian wine,
 Green, bursting figs, and tunnies'
 steeped in brine;
 And knew the intruders on his an-
 cient home, 240

The young light-hearted masters of the
 waves—
 And snatched his rudder, and shook out
 more sail,
 And day and night held on indig-
 nantly
 O'er the blue Midland waters with the
 gale,
 Betwixt the Syrtes and soft Sicily, 245
 To where the Atlantic raves
 Outside the western straits; and un-
 bent sails
 There, where down cloudy cliffs,
 through sheets of foam,
 Shy traffickers, the dark Iberians
 come;
 And on the beach undid his corded
 bales. 250

SOHRAB AND RUSTUM

AN EPISODE

And the first gray of morning filled the
 east,
 And the fog rose out of the Oxus stream.
 But all the Tartar camp along the stream

¹ a kind of fish.

Was hushed, and still the men were plunged
in sleep;

Sohrab alone, he slept not: all night long 5
He had lain wakeful, tossing on his bed;
But when the gray dawn stole into his
tent,

He rose, and clad himself, and girt his
sword,

And took his horseman's cloak, and left
his tent,

And went abroad into the cold wet fog, 10
Through the dim camp to Peran-Wisa's
tent.

Through the black Tartar tents he
passed, which stood

Clustering like bee-hives on the low flat
strand

Of Oxus, where the summer-floods o'erflow
When the sun melts the snows in high
Pamere: 15

Through the black tents he passed, o'er
that low strand,

And to a hillock came, a little back
From the stream's brink—the spot where
first a boat,

Crossing the stream in summer, scrapes
the land.

The men of former times had crowned
the top 20

With a clay fort; but that was fallen, and
now

The Tartars built there Peran-Wisa's tent,
A dome of laths, and o'er it felts were
spread.

And Sohrab came there, and went in,
and stood

Upon the thick piled carpets in the tent, 25
And found the old man sleeping on his
bed

Of rugs and felts, and near him lay his
arms.

And Peran-Wisa heard him, though the
step

Was dulled; for he slept light, an old man's
sleep;

And he rose quickly on one arm, and said:
"Who art thou? for it is not yet clear
dawn. 31

Speak! is there news, or any night alarm?"

But Sohrab came to the bedside, and
said:—

"Thou knowest me, Peran-Wisa: it is I.
The sun is not yet risen, and the foe 35
Sleep; but I sleep not; all night long I lie

Tossing and wakeful, and I come to thee.
For so did King Afrasiab bid me seek

Thy counsel, and to heed thee as thy son,
In Samarcand, before the army marched;
And I will tell thee what my heart de-
sires. 41

Thou knowest if, since from Ader-baijan
first

I came among the Tartars and bore arms,
I have still served Afrasiab well, and
shown,

At my boy's years, the courage of a man.
This too thou know'st, that, while I still
bear on 46

The conquering Tartar ensigns through the
world,

And beat the Persians back on every field,
I seek one man, one man, and one alone—

Rustum, my father; who I hoped should
greet, 50

Should one day greet, upon some well-
fought field

His not unworthy, not inglorious son.

So I long hoped, but him I never find.

Come then, hear now, and grant me what
I ask.

Let the two armies rest to-day: but I 55
Will challenge forth the bravest Persian
lords

To meet me, man to man: if I prevail,
Rustum will surely hear it; if I fall—

Old man, the dead need no one, claim no
kin.

Dim is the rumor of a common fight, 60
Where host meets host, and many names
are sunk;

But of a single combat fame speaks clear."
He spoke; and Peran-Wisa took the
hand

Of the young man in his, and sighed, and
said:—

"O Sohrab, an unquiet heart is thine!
Canst thou not rest among the Tartar
chiefs, 66

And share the battle's common chance
with us

Who love thee, but must press forever
first,

In single fight incurring single risk,
To find a father thou hast never seen? 70

That were far best, my son, to stay with
us

Unmurmuring; in our tents, while it is
war,

And when 'tis truce, then in Afrasiab's towns.

But, if this one desire indeed rules all,
To seek out Rustum—seek him not
through fight: 75

Seek him in peace, and carry to his arms,
O Sohrab, carry an unwounded son!

But far hence seek him, for he is not here.
For now it is not as when I was young,
When Rustum was in front of every fray;
But now he keeps apart, and sits at home,
In Seistan, with Zal, his father old. 82

Whether that his own mighty strength
at last

Feels the abhorred approaches of old age;
Or in some quarrel with the Persian King.

There go!—Thou wilt not? Yet my
heart forebodes 86

Danger or death awaits thee on this field.
Fain would I know thee safe and well,
though lost

To us; fain therefore send thee hence, in
peace

To seek thy father, not seek single fights 90
In vain:—but who can keep the lion's
cub

From ravening, and who govern Rustum's
son?

Go, I will grant thee what thy heart
desires."

So said he, and dropped Sohrab's hand,
and left

His bed, and the warm rugs whereon he
lay; 95

And o'er his chilly limbs his woollen coat
He passed, and tied his sandals on his feet,
And threw a white cloak round him, and
he took

In his right hand a ruler's staff, no sword;
And on his head he set his sheep-skin cap,
Black, glossy, curled, the fleece of Kara-
Kul; 101

And raised the curtain of his tent, and
called

His herald to his side, and went abroad.

The sun by this had risen, and cleared
the fog

From the broad Oxus and the glittering
sands. 105

And from their tents the Tartar horsemen
filed

Into the open plain; so Haman bade—
Haman, who next to Peran-Wisa ruled
The host, and still was in his lusty prime.

From their black tents, long files of horse,
they streamed: 110

As when, some gray November morn, the
files,

In marching order spread, of long-necked
cranes,

Stream over Casbin, and the southern
slopes

Of Elburz, from the Aralian estuaries,
Or some frore¹ Caspian reed-bed, south-
ward bound 115

For the warm Persian sea-board—so they
streamed.

The Tartars of the Oxus, the King's guard,
First, with black sheep-skin caps and with
long spears;

Large men, large steeds; who from Bok-
hara come

And Khiva, and ferment the milk of
mares. 120

Next the more temperate Toorkmuns of
south,

The Tukas, and the lances of Salore,
And those from Attruck and the Caspian
sands;

Light men, and on light steeds, who only
drink

The acrid milk of camels, and their
wells. 125

And then a swarm of wandering horse,
who came

From far, and a more doubtful service
owned;

The Tartars of Ferghana, from the banks
Of the Jaxartes, men with scanty beards
And close-set skull-caps; and those wilder
hordes 130

Who roam o'er Kipchak and the northern
waste,

Kalmuks and unkempt Kuzzaks, tribes
who stray

Nearest the Pole, and wandering Kirg-
hizzes,

Who come on shaggy ponies from Pamere;
These all filed out from camp into the
plain. 135

And on the other side the Persians
formed:

First a light cloud of horse, Tartars they
seemed,

The Ilyats of Khorassan: and behind,
The royal troops of Persia, horse and
foot,

¹ frozen.

Marshall'd battalions bright in burnished
steel. 140

But Peran-Wisa with his herald came,
Threading the Tartar squadrons to the
front,

And with his staff kept back the foremost
ranks.

And when Ferood, who led the Persians,
saw

That Peran-Wisa kept the Tartars back,
He took his spear, and to the front he
came, 146

And checked his ranks, and fixed them
where they stood.

And the old Tartar came upon the sand
Betwixt the silent hosts, and spake, and
said:—

“Ferood, and ye, Persians and Tartars,
hear! 150

Let there be truce between the hosts to-
day.

But choose a champion from the Persian
lords

To fight our champion Sohrab, man to
man.”

As, in the country, on a morn in June,
When the dew glistens on the pearl'd
ears, 155

A shiver runs through the deep corn for
joy—

So, when they heard what Peran-Wisa
said,

A thrill through all the Tartar squadrons
ran

Of pride and hope for Sohrab, whom they
loved.

But as a troop of pedlars, from Cabool,
Cross underneath the Indian Caucasus, 161
That vast sky-neighboring mountain of
milk snow;

Crossing so high, that, as they mount,
they pass

Long flocks of travelling birds dead on
the snow,

Choked by the air, and scarce can they
themselves 165

Slake their parched throats with sugared
mulberries—

In single file they move, and stop their
breath,

For fear they should dislodge the o'er-
hanging snows—

So the pale Persians held their breath with
fear.

And to Ferood his brother chiefs came
up 170

To counsel: Gudurz and Zoarrah came,
And Feraburz, who ruled the Persian host
Second, and was the uncle of the King;
These came and counselled, and then
Gudurz said:—

“Ferood, shame bids us take their
challenge up. 175

Yet champion have we none to match
this youth.

He has the wild stag's foot, the lion's
heart.

But Rustum came last night; aloof he sits
And sullen, and has pitched his tents
apart.

Him will I seek, and carry to his ear 180
The Tartar challenge, and this young
man's name.

Haply he will forget his wrath, and fight.
Stand forth the while, and take their
challenge up.”

So spake he; and Ferood stood forth
and cried:—

“Old man, be it agreed as thou hast
said! 185

Let Sohrab arm, and we will find a man.”

He spake; and Peran-Wisa turned, and
strode

Back through the opening squadrons to
his tent.

But through the anxious Persians Gudurz
ran,

And crossed the camp which lay behind,
and reached, 190

Out on the sands beyond it, Rustum's
tents.

Of scarlet cloth they were, and glittering
gay,

Just pitched: the high pavilion in the
midst

Was Rustum's, and his men lay camped
around.

And Gudurz entered Rustum's tent, and
found 195

Rustum; his morning meal was done, but
still

The table stood before him, charged with
food;

A side of roasted sheep, and cakes of
bread,

And dark green melons; and there Rustum
sate

Listless, and held a falcon on his wrist, 200

And played with it; but Gudurz came and stood
 Before him; and he looked, and saw him stand,
 And with a cry sprang up, and dropped the bird,
 And greeted Gudurz with both hands, and said:—

“Welcome! these eyes could see no better sight. 205
 What news? but sit down first, and eat and drink.”

But Gudurz stood in the tent-door, and said:—
 “Not now; a time will come to eat and drink,
 But not to-day; to-day has other needs. The armies are drawn out, and stand at gaze; 210
 For from the Tartars is a challenge brought
 To pick a champion from the Persian lords
 To fight their champion—and thou knowest his name—
 Sohrab men call him, but his birth is hid.
 O Rustum, like thy might is this young man’s! 215
 He has the wild stag’s foot, the lion’s heart;
 And he is young, and Iran’s¹ chiefs are old,
 Or else too weak; and all eyes turn to thee.
 Come down and help us, Rustum, or we lose!”

He spoke: but Rustum answered with a smile:— 220

“Go to! if Iran’s chiefs are old, then I Am older: if the young are weak, the King Errs strangely; for the King, for Kai-Khosroo,
 Himself is young, and honors younger men,
 And lets the aged moulder to their graves. 225
 Rustum he loves no more, but loves the young—
 The young may rise at Sohrab’s vaunts, not I.
 For what care I, though all speak Sohrab’s fame?
 For would that I myself had such a son,
 And not that one slight helpless girl I have— 230
 A son so famed, so brave, to send to war,

And I to tarry with the snow-haired Zal,
 My father, whom the robber Afghans vex,
 And clip his borders short, and drive his herds,
 And he has none to guard his weak old age. 235

There would I go, and hang my armor up,
 And with my great name fence that weak old man,

And spend the goodly treasures I have got,
 And rest my age, and hear of Sohrab’s fame,

And leave to death the hosts of thankless kings, 240

And with these slaughterous hands draw sword no more.”

He spoke, and smiled; and Gudurz made reply:—

“What then, O Rustum, will men say to this,

When Sohrab dares our bravest forth, and seeks

Thee most of all, and thou, whom most he seeks, 245

Hidest thy face? Take heed, lest men should say:

‘*Like some old miser, Rustum hoards his fame,*

And shuns to peril it with younger men.’”

And, greatly moved, then Rustum made reply:—

“O Gudurz, wherefore dost thou say such words? 250

Thou knowest better words than this to say.

What is one more, one less, obscure or famed,

Valiant or craven, young or old, to me? Are not they mortal, am not I myself?

But who for men of nought would do great deeds? 255

Come, thou shall see how Rustum hoards his fame!

But I will fight unknown, and in plain arms;

Let not men say of Rustum, he was matched

In single fight with any mortal man.”

He spoke, and frowned; and Gudurz turned, and ran 260

Back quickly through the camp in fear and joy—

Fear at his wrath, but joy that Rustum came.

¹ Persia’s.

But Rustum strode to his tent door, and
 called
 His followers in, and bade them bring his
 arms,
 And clad himself in steel: the arms he
 chose 265
 Were plain, and on his shield was no de-
 vice,
 Only his helm was rich, inlaid with gold,
 And from the fluted spine atop, a plume
 Of horsehair waved, a scarlet horsehair
 plume.
 So armed, he issued forth; and Ruksh,
 his horse, 270
 Followed him like a faithful hound at
 heel—
 Ruksh, whose renown was noised through
 all the earth,
 The horse whom Rustum on a foray once
 Did in Bokhara by the river find,
 A colt beneath its dam, and drove him
 home, 275
 And reared him; a bright bay, with lofty
 crest;
 Dight with a saddle-cloth of brodered
 green
 Crusted with gold, and on the ground
 were worked
 All beasts of chase, all beasts which hunters
 know.
 So followed, Rustum left his tents, and
 crossed 280
 The camp, and to the Persian host ap-
 peared.
 And all the Persians knew him, and with
 shouts
 Hailed; but the Tartars knew not who he
 was.
 And dear as the wet diver to the eyes
 Of his pale wife who waits and weeps on
 shore, 285
 By sandy Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf,
 Plunging all day into the blue waves, at
 night,
 Having made up his tale of precious
 pearls,
 Rejoins her in their hut upon the sands—
 So dear to the pale Persians Rustum
 came. 290
 And Rustum to the Persian front ad-
 vanced,
 And Sohrab armed in Haman's tent, and
 came.
 And as afield the reapers cut a swath

Down through the middle of a rich man's
 corn,
 And on each side are squares of standing
 corn, 295
 And in the midst a stubble, short and
 bare—
 So on each side were squares of men, with
 spears
 Bristling, and in the midst, the open sand.
 And Rustum came upon the sand, and cast
 His eyes towards the Tartar tents, and
 saw 300
 Sohrab come forth, and eyed him as he
 came.
 As some rich woman, on a winter's
 morn,
 Eyes through her silken curtains the poor
 drudge
 Who with numb blackened fingers makes
 her fire—
 At cock-crow on a starlit winter's morn, 305
 When the frost flowers the whitened
 window-panes—
 And wonders how she lives, and what the
 thoughts
 Of that poor drudge may be; so Rustum
 eyed
 The unknown adventurous youth, who
 from afar 309
 Came seeking Rustum, and defying forth
 All the most valiant chiefs: long he perused
 His spirited air, and wondered who he was.
 For very young he seemed, tenderly
 reared;
 Like some young cypress, tall, and dark,
 and straight,
 Which in a queen's secluded garden
 throws 315
 Its slight dark shadow on the moonlit
 turf,
 By midnight, to a bubbling fountain's
 sound—
 So slender Sohrab seemed, so softly reared.
 And a deep pity entered Rustum's soul
 As he beheld him coming; and he stood, 320
 And beckoned to him with his hand, and
 said:—
 "O thou young man, the air of Heaven
 is soft,
 And warm, and pleasant; but the grave
 is cold!
 Heaven's air is better than the cold dead
 grave.
 Behold me! I am vast, and clad in iron, 325

And tried; and I have stood on many a
field
Of blood, and I have fought with many a
foe—
Never was that field lost, or that foe saved.
O Sohrab, wherefore wilt thou rush on
death?
Be governed! quit the Tartar host, and
come 330
To Iran, and be as my son to me,
And fight beneath my banner till I die.
There are no youths in Iran brave as thou.”
So he spake, mildly: Sohrab heard his
voice,
The mighty voice of Rustum, and he
saw 335
His giant figure planted on the sand,
Sole, like some single tower, which a chief
Has builded on the waste in former years
Against the robbers; and he saw that head,
Streaked with its first gray hairs;—hope
filled his soul, 340
And he ran forward and embraced his
knees,
And clasped his hand within his own, and
said:—
“O, by thy father’s head! by thine own
soul!
Art thou not Rustum? speak! art thou
not he?”
But Rustum eyed askance the kneeling
youth, 345
And turned away, and spake to his own
soul:—
“Ah me, I muse what this young fox
may mean!
False, wily, boastful, are these Tartar boys.
For if I now confess this thing he asks,
And hide it not, but say: *Rustum is here!* 350
He will not yield indeed, nor quit our foes,
But he will find some pretext not to fight,
And praise my fame, and proffer courteous
gifts,
A belt or sword perhaps, and go his way.
And on a feast day, in Afrasiab’s hall, 355
In Samarcand, he will arise and cry:
‘I challenged once, when the two armies
camped
Beside the Oxus, all the Persian lords
To cope with me in single fight; but they
Shrank, only Rustum dared; then he and
I 360
Changed gifts, and went on equal terms
away.’

So will he speak, perhaps, while men
applaud;
Then were the chiefs of Iran shamed
through me.”
And then he turned, and sternly spake
aloud:—
“Rise! wherefore dost thou vainly ques-
tion thus 365
Of Rustum? I am here, whom thou hast
called
By challenge forth: make good thy vaunt,
or yield!
Is it with Rustum only thou wouldst fight?
Rash boy, men look on Rustum’s face
and flee.
For well I know, that did great Rustum
stand 370
Before thy face this day, and were revealed,
There would be then no talk of fighting
more.
But being what I am, I tell thee this—
Do thou record it in thine inmost soul:
Either thou shalt renounce thy vaunt and
yield; 375
Or else thy bones shall strew this sand, till
winds
Bleach them, or Oxus with his summer-
floods,
Oxus in summer wash them all away.”
He spoke: and Sohrab answered, on
his feet:—
“Art thou so fierce? Thou wilt not fright
me so! 380
I am no girl, to be made pale by words.
Yet this thou hast said well, did Rustum
stand
Here on this field, there were no fighting
then.
But Rustum is far hence, and we stand
here.
Begin! thou art more vast, more dread
than I, 385
And thou art proved, I know, and I am
young—
But yet success sways with the breath of
Heaven.
And though thou thinkest that thou
knowest sure
Thy victory, yet thou canst not surely
know.
For we are all, like swimmers in the sea, 390
Poised on the top of a huge wave of fate,
Which hangs uncertain to which side to
fall.

And whether it will heave us up to land,
 Or whether it will roll us out to sea,
 Back out to sea, to the deep waves of
 death, 395
 We know not, and no search will make
 us know;
 Only the event will teach us in its hour."
 He spoke, and Rustum answered not,
 but hurled
 His spear; down from the shoulder, down
 it came
 As on some partridge in the corn a hawk 400
 That long has towered in the airy clouds
 Drops like a plummet; Sohrab saw it come,
 And sprang aside, quick as a flash: the
 spear
 Hissed, and went quivering down into the
 sand,
 Which it sent flying wide;—then Sohrab
 threw 405
 In turn, and full struck Rustum's shield;
 sharp rang,
 The iron plates rang sharp, but turned
 the spear.
 And Rustum seized his club, which none
 but he
 Could wield: an unlopped trunk it was,
 and huge,
 Still rough—like those which men in tree-
 less plains 410
 To build them boats fish from the flooded
 rivers,
 Hyphasis or Hydaspes, when, high up
 By their dark springs, the wind in winter-
 time
 Has made in Himalayan forests wrack,
 And strewn the channels with torn boughs
 —so huge 415
 The club which Rustum lifted now, and
 struck
 One stroke; but again Sohrab sprang
 aside,
 Lithe as the glancing snake, and the club
 came
 Thundering to earth, and leaped from Rus-
 tum's hand.
 And Rustum followed his own blow, and
 fell 420
 To his knees, and with his fingers clutched
 the sand.
 And now might Sohrab have unsheathed
 his sword,
 And pierced the mighty Rustum while he
 lay

Dizzy, and on his knees, and choked with
 sand;
 But he looked on, and smiled, nor bared
 his sword, 425
 But courteously drew back, and spoke,
 and said:—
 "Thou strikest too hard! that club of
 thine will float
 Upon the summer-floods, and not my
 bones.
 But rise, and be not wroth! not wroth am
 I;
 No, when I see thee, wrath forsakes my
 soul. 430
 Thou sayst thou art not Rustum: be it so.
 Who art thou then, that canst so touch
 my soul?
 Boy as I am, I have seen battles too—
 Have waded foremost in their bloody
 waves,
 And heard their hollow roar of dying
 men; 435
 But never was my heart thus touched
 before.
 Are they from Heaven, these softenings
 of the heart?
 O thou old warrior, let us yield to Heaven!
 Come, plant we here in earth our angry
 spears,
 And make a truce, and sit upon this sand,
 And pledge each other in red wine, like
 friends, 441
 And thou shalt talk to me of Rustum's
 deeds.
 There are enough foes in the Persian
 host,
 Whom I may meet, and strike, and feel
 no pang;
 Champions enough Afrasiab has, whom
 thou 445
 Mayst fight; fight *them*, when they con-
 front thy spear!
 But oh, let there be peace 'twixt thee and
 me!"
 He ceased: but while he spake, Rustum
 had risen,
 And stood erect, trembling with rage: his
 club
 He left to lie, but had regained his spear,
 Whose fiery point now in his mailed right-
 hand 451
 Blazed bright and baleful, like that
 autumn-star,
 The baleful sign of fevers: dust had soiled

His stately crest, and dimmed his glittering arms.

His breast heaved, his lips foamed, and twice his voice 455

Was choked with rage: at last these words broke way:—

“Girl! nimble with thy feet, not with thy hands!

Curled minion, dancer, coiner of sweet words!

Fight, let me hear thy hateful voice no more!

Thou art not in Afrasiab’s gardens now 460
With Tartar girls, with whom thou art wont to dance;

But on the Oxus-sands, and in the dance Of battle, and with me, who make no play

Of war; I fight it out, and hand to hand. Speak not to me of truce, and pledge, and wine! 465

Remember all thy valor: try thy feints And cunning! all the pity I had is gone;

Because thou hast shamed me before both the hosts

With thy light skipping tricks, and thy girl’s wiles.”

He spoke, and Sohrab kindled at his taunts, 470

And he too drew his sword: at once they rushed

Together, as two eagles on one prey Come rushing down together from the clouds,

One from the east, one from the west; their shields 474

Dashed with a clang together, and a din Rose, such as that the sinewy woodcutters

Make often in the forest’s heart at morn, Of hewing axes, crashing trees—such blows

Rustum and Sohrab on each other hailed. And you would say that sun and stars took part 480

In that unnatural conflict; for a cloud Grew suddenly in Heaven, and darked the sun

Over the fighters’ heads; and a wind rose Under their feet, and moaning swept the plain,

And in a sandy whirlwind wrapped the pair. 485

In gloom they twain were wrapped, and they alone;

For both the on-looking hosts on either hand

Stood in broad daylight, and the sky was pure,

And the sun sparkled on the Oxus stream. But in the gloom they fought, with blood-shot eyes 490

And laboring breath; first Rustum struck the shield

Which Sohrab held stiff out; the steel-spiked spear

Rent the tough plates, but failed to reach the skin,

And Rustum plucked it back with angry groan.

Then Sohrab with his sword smote Rustum’s helm, 495

Nor clove its steel quite through; but all the crest

He shore away, and that proud horse-hair plume,

Never till now defiled, sank to the dust; And Rustum bowed his head; but then the gloom

Grew blacker, thunder rumbled in the air, 500

And lightnings rent the cloud; and Ruksh, the horse,

Who stood at hand, uttered a dreadful cry;—

No horse’s cry was that, most like the roar

Of some pained desert lion, who all day Hath trailed the hunter’s javelin in his side, 505

And comes at night to die upon the sand. The two hosts heard that cry, and quaked for fear,

And Oxus curdled as it crossed his stream. But Sohrab heard, and quailed not, but rushed on,

And struck again; and again Rustum bowed 510

His head; but this time all the blade, like glass,

Sprang in a thousand shivers on the helm,

And in his hand the hilt remained alone. Then Rustum raised his head; his dreadful eyes

Glared, and he shook on high his menacing spear, 515

And shouted, *Rustum!*—Sohrab heard that shout,

And shrank amazed: back he recoiled one
 step,
 And scanned with blinking eyes the ad-
 vancing form;
 And then he stood bewildered; and he
 dropped
 His covering shield, and the spear pierced
 his side. 520
 He reeled, and staggering back, sank to
 the ground;
 And then the gloom dispersed, and the
 wind fell,
 And the bright sun broke forth, and melted
 all
 The cloud; and the two armies saw the
 pair—
 Saw Rustum standing, safe upon his
 feet, 525
 And Sohrab, wounded, on the bloody
 sand.
 Then with a bitter smile, Rustum
 began:—
 “Sohrab, thou thoughtest in thy mind
 to kill
 A Persian lord this day, and strip his
 corpse,
 And bear thy trophies to Afrasiab's tent.
 Or else that the great Rustum would come
 down 531
 Himself to fight, and that thy wiles
 would move
 His heart to take a gift, and let thee go.
 And then that all the Tartar host would
 praise
 Thy courage or thy craft, and spread thy
 fame, 535
 To glad thy father in his weak old age.
 Fool, thou art slain, and by an unknown
 man!
 Dearer to the red jackals shalt thou be
 Than to thy friends, and to thy father
 old.”
 And, with a fearless mien, Sohrab
 replied:— 540
 “Unknown thou art; yet thy fierce vaunt
 is vain.
 Thou dost not slay me, proud and boastful
 man!
 No! Rustum slays me, and this filial
 heart.
 For were I matched with ten such men
 as thee,
 And I were that which till to-day I was, 545
 They should be lying here, I standing there.

But that belovèd name unnerved my
 arm—
 That name, and something, I confess, in
 thee,
 Which troubles all my heart, and made my
 shield
 Fall; and thy spear transfix'd an un-
 armed foe. 550
 And now thou boastest, and insultest
 my fate.
 But hear thou this, fierce man, tremble
 to hear!
 The mighty Rustum shall avenge my
 death!
 My father, whom I seek through all the
 world,
 He shall avenge my death, and punish
 thee!” 555
 As when some hunter in the spring
 hath found
 A breeding eagle sitting on her nest,
 Upon the craggy isle of a hill-lake,
 And pierced her with an arrow as she
 rose,
 And followed her to find her where she
 fell 560
 Far off;—anon her mate comes winging
 back
 From hunting, and a great way off de-
 scribes
 His huddling young left sole; at that, he
 checks
 His pinion, and with short uneasy sweeps
 Circles above his eyry, with loud screams
 Chiding his mate back to her nest; but
 she 566
 Lies dying, with the arrow in her side,
 In some far stony gorge out of his ken,
 A heap of fluttering feathers—never more
 Shall the lake glass her, flying over it; 570
 Never the black and dripping precipices
 Echo her stormy scream as she sails by:—
 As that poor bird flies home, nor knows
 his loss,
 So Rustum knew not his own loss, but
 stood
 Over his dying son, and knew him not. 575
 But, with a cold incredulous voice, he
 said:—
 “What prate is this of fathers and re-
 venge?
 The mighty Rustum never had a son.”
 And, with a failing voice, Sohrab re-
 plied:— 579

"Ah! yes, he had! and that lost son am I.
 Surely the news will one day reach his
 ear,
 Reach Rustum, where he sits, and tarries
 long,
 Somewhere, I know not where, but far
 from here,
 And pierce him like a stab, and make him
 leap
 To arms, and cry for vengeance upon
 thee. 585
 Fierce man, bethink thee, for an only son!
 What will that grief, what will that
 vengeance be?
 Oh, could I live, till I that grief had seen!
 Yet him I pity not so much, but her,
 My mother, who in Ader-baijan dwells 590
 With that old king, her father, who grows
 gray
 With age, and rules over the valiant
 Koords.
 Her most I pity, who no more will see
 Sohrab returning from the Tartar camp,
 With spoils and honor, when the war is
 done. 595
 But a dark rumor will be bruited up,
 From tribe to tribe, until it reach her ear;
 And then will that defenceless woman
 learn
 That Sohrab will rejoice her sight no more;
 But that in battle with a nameless foe, 600
 By the far-distant Oxus, he is slain."
 He spoke; and as he ceased, he wept
 aloud,
 Thinking of her he left, and his own death.
 He spoke; but Rustum listened, plunged
 in thought.
 Nor did he yet believe it was his son 605
 Who spoke, although he called back names
 he knew;
 For he had had sure tidings that the babe,
 Which was in Ader-baijan born to him,
 Had been a puny girl, no boy at all—
 So that sad mother sent him word, for
 fear 610
 Rustum should take the boy, to train in
 arms;
 And so he deemed that either Sohrab took,
 By a false boast, the style of Rustum's
 son;
 Or that men gave it him, to swell his fame.
 So deemed he; yet he listened, plunged
 in thought, 615
 And his soul set to grief, as the vast tide

Of the bright rocking Ocean sets to shore
 At the full moon: tears gathered in his
 eyes;
 For he remembered his own early youth,
 And all its bounding rapture; as, at dawn,
 The shepherd from his mountain-lodge
 descries 621
 A far, bright city, smitten by the sun,
 Through many rolling clouds—so Rustum
 saw
 His youth; saw Sohrab's mother, in her
 bloom;
 And that old king, her father, who loved
 well 625
 His wandering guest, and gave him his
 fair child
 With joy; and all the pleasant life they
 led,
 They three, in that long-distant summer-
 time—
 The castle, and the dewy woods, and hunt
 And hound, and morn on those delightful
 hills 630
 In Ader-baijan. And he saw that youth,
 Of age and looks to be his own dear son,
 Piteous and lovely, lying on the sand,
 Like some rich hyacinth which by the
 scythe
 Of an unskilful gardener has been cut, 635
 Mowing the garden grass-plots near its
 bed,
 And lies, a fragrant tower of purple bloom,
 On the mown, dying grass—so Sohrab lay,
 Lovely in death, upon the common sand.
 And Rustum gazed on him with grief, and
 said:— 640
 "O Sohrab, thou indeed art such a son
 Whom Rustum, wert thou his; might well
 have loved.
 Yet here thou errest, Sohrab, or else men
 Have told thee false—thou art not Rus-
 tum's son.
 For Rustum had no son: one child he
 had— 645
 But one—a girl; who with her mother now
 Plies some light female task, nor dreams of
 us—
 Of us she dreams not, nor of wounds, nor
 war."
 But Sohrab answered him in wrath; for
 now
 The anguish of the deep-fixed spear grew
 fierce, 650
 And he desired to draw forth the steel,

And let the blood flow free, and so to die—
But first he would convince his stubborn
foe;

And, rising sternly on one arm, he said:—
“Man, who art thou who dost deny my
words? 655

Truth sits upon the lips of dying men,
And falsehood, while I lived, was far from
mine.

I tell thee, pricked upon this arm I bear
That seal which Rustum to my mother
gave,

That she might prick it on the babe she
bore.” 660

He spoke; and all the blood left Rus-
tum’s cheeks,
And his knees tottered, and he smote his
hand

Against his breast, his heavy mailèd hand,
That the hard iron corslet clanked aloud;
And to his heart he pressed the other
hand, 665

And in a hollow voice he spake, and said:—
“Sohrab, that were a proof which could
not lie!

If thou show this, then art thou Rustum’s
son.”

Then, with weak hasty fingers, Sohrab
loosed

His belt, and near the shoulder bared his
arm, 670

And showed a sign in faint vermilion points
Pricked; as a cunning workman, in Pekin,
Pricks with vermilion some clear porcelain
vase,

An emperor’s gift—at early morn he paints,
And all day long, and, when night comes,
the lamp 675

Lights up his studious forehead and thin
hands—

So delicately pricked the sign appeared
On Sohrab’s arm, the sign of Rustum’s
seal.

It was that griffin, which of old reared Zal,
Rustum’s great father, whom they left to
die, 680

A helpless babe, among the mountain
rocks;

Him that kind creature found, and reared,
and loved—

Then Rustum took it for his glorious sign.
And Sohrab bared that image on his arm,
And himself scanned it long with mournful
eyes, 685

And then he touched it with his hand and
said:—

“How say’st thou? Is that sign the
proper sign

Of Rustum’s son, or of some other man’s?”

He spoke: but Rustum gazed, and
gazed, and stood

Speechless; and then he uttered one sharp
cry: 690

“*O boy—thy father!*”—and his voice
choked there.

And then a dark cloud passed before his
eyes,

And his head swam, and he sank down to
earth.

But Sohrab crawled to where he lay, and
cast

His arms about his neck, and kissed his
lips, 695

And with fond faltering fingers stroked
his cheeks,

Trying to call him back to life; and life
Came back to Rustum, and he oped his
eyes,

And they stood wide with horror; and he
seized

In both his hands the dust which lay
around, 700

And threw it on his head, and smirched
his hair,—

His hair, and face, and beard, and glitter-
ing arms;

And strong convulsive groanings shook
his breast,

And his sobs choked him; and he clutched
his sword,

To draw it, and forever let life out. 705

But Sohrab saw his thought, and held his
hands,

And with a soothing voice he spake, and
said:—

“Father, forbear! for I but meet to-day
The doom that at my birth was written
down

In Heaven, and thou art Heaven’s uncon-
scious hand. 710

Surely my heart cried out that it was thou,
When first I saw thee; and thy heart spoke
too,

I know it! but fate trod those promptings
down

Under its iron heel; fate, fate engaged
The strife, and hurled me on my father’s
spear. 715

But let us speak no more of this! I find
 My father; let me feel that I have found!
 Come, sit beside me on this sand, and
 take
 My head betwixt thy hands, and kiss my
 cheeks,
 And wash them with thy tears, and say:
 'My son!' 720
 Quick! quick! for numbered are my sands
 of life,
 And swift; for like the lightning to this
 field
 I came, and like the wind I go away—
 Sudden, and swift, and like a passing
 wind.
 But it was writ in Heaven that this
 should be." 725
 So said he: and his voice released the
 heart
 Of Rustum, and his tears broke forth;
 he cast
 His arms round his son's neck, and wept
 aloud,
 And kissed him. And awe fell on both
 the hosts
 When they saw Rustum's grief: and
 Ruksh, the horse, 730
 With his head bowing to the ground and
 mane
 Sweeping the dust, came near, and in
 mute woe
 First to the one, then to the other moved
 His head, as if inquiring what their grief
 Might mean; and from his dark, compas-
 sionate eyes, 735
 The big warm tears rolled down, and
 caked the sand.
 But Rustum chid him with stern voice,
 and said:—
 "Ruksh, now thou grieve'st; but, O
 Ruksh, thy feet
 Should not have rotted on their nimble
 joints,
 Or ere they bore thy master to this field!"
 But Sohrab looked upon the horse and
 said:— 741
 "Is this, then, Ruksh? How often, in past
 days,
 My mother told me of thee, thou brave
 steed,
 My terrible father's terrible horse! and
 said,
 That I should one day find thy lord and
 thee. 745

Come, let me lay my hand upon thy mane!
 O Ruksh, thou art more fortunate than I;
 For thou hast gone where I shall never
 go,
 And snuffed the breezes of my father's
 home.
 And thou hast trod the sands of Seistan,
 And seen the river of Helmund, and the
 Lake 751
 Of Zirrah; and the aged Zal himself
 Has often stroked thy neck, and given
 thee food,
 Corn in a golden platter soaked with
 wine,
 And said '*O Ruksh! bear Rustum well!*'
 but I 755
 Have never known my grandsire's fur-
 rowed face,
 Nor seen his lofty house in Seistan,
 Nor slaked my thirst at the clear Hel-
 mund stream;
 But lodged among my father's foes, and
 seen
 Afrasiab's cities only, Samarcand, 760
 Bokhara, and lone Khiva in the waste,
 And the black Toorkmun tents; and only
 drunk
 The desert rivers, Moorghab and Tejend,
 Kohik, and where the Kalmuks feed their
 sheep,
 The northern Sir; and this great Oxus
 stream— 765
 The yellow Oxus, by whose brink I die."
 And, with a heavy groan, Rustum
 bewailed:—
 "Oh, that its waves were flowing over
 me!
 Oh, that I saw its grains of yellow silt
 Roll tumbling in the current o'er my
 head!" 770
 But, with a grave mild voice, Sohrab
 replied:—
 "Desire not that, my father! thou must
 live.
 For some are born to do great deeds, and
 live,
 As some are born to be obscured, and die.
 Do thou the deeds I die too young to do,
 And reap a second glory in thine age; 776
 Thou art my father, and thy gain is mine.
 But come! thou seest this great host of
 men
 Which follow me; I pray thee, slay not
 these!

Let me entreat for them; what have they
done? 780

They followed me, my hope, my fame, my
star.

Let them all cross the Oxus back in peace.
But me thou must bear hence, not send
with them,

But carry me with thee to Seïstan,
And place me on a bed, and mourn for
me, 785

Thou, and the snow-haired Zal, and all
thy friends.

And thou must lay me in that lovely
earth,

And heap a stately mound above my
bones,

And plant a far-seen pillar over all:
That so the passing horseman on the
waste 790

May see my tomb a great way off, and
cry:

*'Sohrab, the mighty Rustum's son, lies
there,*

*Whom his great father did in ignorance
kill'—*

And I be not forgotten in my grave.”
And, with a mournful voice, Rustum
replied:— 795

“Fear not! as thou hast said, Sohrab, my
son,

So shall it be; for I will burn my tents,
And quit the host, and bear thee hence
with me,

And carry thee away to Seïstan,
And place thee on a bed, and mourn
for thee, 800

With the snow-headed Zal, and all my
friends.

And I will lay thee in that lovely earth,
And heap a stately mound above thy
bones,

And plant a far-seen pillar over all,
And men shall not forget thee in thy
grave. 805

And I will spare thy host; yea, let them
go!

Let them all cross the Oxus back in peace!
What should I do with slaying any more?
For would that all whom I have ever
slain

Might be once more alive; my bitterest
foes, 810

And they who were called champions in
their time,

And through whose death I won that
fame I have—

And I were nothing but a common man,
A poor, mean soldier, and without re-
nown,

So thou mightest live too, my son, my
son! 815

Or rather would that I, even I myself,
Might now be lying on this bloody sand,
Near death, and by an ignorant stroke
of thine,

Not thou of mine! and I might die, not
thou;

And I, not thou, be borne to Seïstan; 820
And Zal might weep above my grave,
not thine;

And say *'O son, I weep thee not too sore,
For willingly, I know, thou met'st thine end.'*

But now in blood and battles was my
youth,

And full of blood and battles is my age, 825
And I shall never end this life of blood.”

Then, at the point of death, Sohrab
replied:—

“A life of blood indeed, thou dreadful man!
But thou shalt yet have peace; only not
now,

Not yet! but thou shalt have it on that
day, 830

When thou shalt sail in a high-masted
ship,

Thou and the other peers of Kai-Khosroo,
Returning home over the salt blue sea,
From laying thy dear master in his grave.”

And Rustum gazed on Sohrab's face,
and said:— 835

“Soon be that day, my son, and deep that
sea!

Till then, if fate so wills, let me endure.”

He spoke; and Sohrab smiled on him,
and took

The spear, and drew it from his side, and
eased

His wound's imperious anguish; but the
blood 840

Came welling from the open gash, and
life

Flowed with the stream;—all down his
cold white side

The crimson torrent ran, dim now and
soiled

Like the soiled tissue of white violets
Left, freshly gathered, on their native
bank, 845

By romping children, whom their nurses
call
Indoors from the sun's eye; his head
drooped low,
His limbs grew slack; motionless, white,
he lay—
White, with eyes closed; only when heavy
gasps,
Deep heavy gasps quivering through all
his frame, 850
Convulsed him back to life, he opened
them,
And fixed them feebly on his father's
face;
Till now all strength was ebbd, and from
his limbs
Unwillingly the spirit fled away,
Regretting the warm mansion which it
left, 855
And youth, and bloom, and this delight-
ful world.
So, on the bloody sand, Sohrab lay dead;
And the great Rustum drew his horse-
man's cloak
Down o'er his face, and sate by his dead
son.
As those black granite pillars, once high-
reared 860
By Jemshid in Persepolis, to bear
His house, now 'mid their broken flights
of steps
Lie prone, enormous, down the mountain
side—
So in the sand lay Rustum by his son.
And night came down over the solemn
waste, 865
And the two gazing hosts, and that sole
pair,
And darkened all; and a cold fog, with
night,
Crept from the Oxus. Soon a hum arose,
As of a great assembly loosed, and fires
Began to twinkle through the fog: for
now 870
Both armies moved to camp, and took
their meal;
The Persians took it on the open sands
Southward, the Tartars by the river marge:
And Rustum and his son were left alone.
But the majestic river floated on, 875
Out of the mist and hum of that low land,
Into the frosty starlight, and there moved,
Rejoicing, through the hushed Choras-
mian waste,

Under the solitary moon;—he flowed
Right for the polar star, past Orgunjè,
Brimming, and bright, and large; then
sands begin 881
To hem his watery march, and dam his
streams,
And split his currents; that for many a
league
The shorn and parcelled Oxus strains along
Through beds of sand and matted rushy
isles— 885
Oxus, forgetting the bright speed he had
In his high mountain cradle in Pamere,
A foiled circuitous wanderer—till at last
The longed-for dash of waves is heard, and
wide
His luminous home of waters opens,
bright 890
And tranquil, from whose floor the new-
bathed stars
Emerge, and shine upon the Aral Sea.

THE AUSTERITY OF POETRY

That son of Italy who tried to blow,
Ere Dante came, the trump of sacred song,
In his light youth amid a festal throng
Sat with his bride to see a public show.
Fair was the bride, and on her front did
glow 5
Youth like a star; and what to youth
belong—
Gay raiment, sparkling gauds, elation
strong.
A prop gave way! crash fell a platform! lo,
'Mid struggling sufferers, hurt to death,
she lay!
Shuddering, they drew her garments off
—and found 10
A robe of sackcloth next the smooth,
white skin.
Such, poets, is your bride, the Muse!
young, gay,
Radiant, adorned outside; a hidden ground
Of thought and of austerity within.

RUGBY CHAPEL

NOVEMBER 1857

Coldly, sadly descends
The autumn evening. The field
Strewn with its dank yellow drifts
Of withered leaves, and the elms,

Fade into dimness apace, Silent;—hardly a shout From a few boys late at their play! The lights come out in the street, In the school-room windows;—but cold, Solemn, unlighted, austere, Through the gathering darkness, arise The chapel-walls, in whose bound Thou, my father! art laid.	5	'Twixt vice and virtue; revivest, Succorest! This was thy work, This was thy life upon earth.	55
There thou dost lie, in the gloom Of the autumn evening. But ah! That word, <i>gloom</i> , to my mind Brings thee back, in the light Of thy radiant vigor, again; In the gloom of November we passed Days not dark at thy side; Seasons impaired not the ray Of thy buoyant cheerfulness clear. Such thou wast! and I stand In the autumn evening, and think Of bygone autumns with thee.	10 15 20	What is the course of the life Of mortal men on the earth? Most men eddy about Here and there—eat and drink, Chatter and love and hate, Gather and squander, are raised Aloft, are hurled in the dust. Striving blindly, achieving Nothing; and then they die— Perish;—and no one asks Who or what they have been, More than he asks what waves, In the moonlit solitudes mild Of the midmost Ocean, have swelled, Foamed for a moment, and gone.	60 65 70
Fifteen years have gone round Since thou arosest to tread, In the summer-morning, the road Of death, at a call unforeseen, Sudden. For fifteen years, We who till then in thy shade Rested as under the boughs Of a mighty oak, have endured Sunshine and rain as we might, Bare, unshaded, alone, Lacking the shelter of thee.	25 30 35	And there are some, whom a thirst Ardent, unquenchable, fires, Not with the crowd to be spent, Not without aim to go round In an eddy of purposeless dust, Effort unmeaning and vain. Ah, yes! some of us strive Not without action to die Fruitless, but something to snatch From dull oblivion, nor all Glut the devouring grave! We, we have chosen our path— Path to a clear-purposed goal, Path of advance!—but it leads A long, steep journey, through sunk Gorges, o'er mountains in snow. Cheerful, with friends, we set forth— Then, on the height, comes the storm. Thunder crashes from rock To rock, the cataracts reply; Lightnings dazzle our eyes; Roaring torrents have breached The track; the stream-bed descends In the place where the wayfarer once Planted his footstep—the spray Boils o'er its borders! aloft The unseen snow-beds dislodge Their hanging ruin! alas, Havoc is made in our train! Friends, who set forth at our side, Falter, are lost in the storm. We, we only are left! With frowning foreheads, with lips Sternly compressed, we strain on,	75 80 85 90 95 100 105
O strong soul, by what shore Tarriest thou now? For that force, Surely, has not been left vain! Somewhere, surely, afar, In the sounding labor-house vast Of being, is practised that strength, Zealous, beneficent, firm!	40		
Yes, in some far-shining sphere, Conscious or not of the past, Still thou performest the word Of the Spirit in whom thou dost live— Prompt, unwearied, as here! Still thou upraisest with zeal The humble good from the ground, Sternly represses the bad! Still, like a trumpet, dost rouse Those who with half-open eyes Tread the border-land dim	45 50		

On—and at nightfall at last Come to the end of our way, To the lonely inn 'mid the rocks; Where the gaunt and taciturn host Stands on the threshold, the wind Shaking his thin white hairs— Holds his lantern to scan Our storm-beat figures, and asks: Whom in our party we bring, Whom we have left in the snow?	110 115	Bluster or cringe, and make life Hideous, and arid, and vile; But souls tempered with fire, Fervent, heroic, and good, Helpers and friends of mankind.	160
Sadly we answer: We bring Only ourselves! we lost Sight of the rest in the storm. Hardly ourselves we fought through, Stripped, without friends, as we are. Friends, companions, and train, The avalanche swept from our side.	 120	Servants of God!—or sons Shall I not call you? because Not as servants ye knew Your Father's innermost mind, His, who unwillingly sees One of his little ones lost— Yours is the praise, if mankind Hath not as yet in its march Fainted, and fallen, and died!	 165 170
But thou would'st not <i>alone</i> Be saved, my father! <i>alone</i> Conquer and come to thy goal, Leaving the rest in the wild. We were weary, and we Fearful, and we in our march Fain to drop down and to die. Still thou turnedst, and still Beckonedst the trembler, and still Gavest the weary thy hand.	 125 130	See! In the rocks of the world Marches the host of mankind, A feeble, wavering line. Where are they tending?—A God Marshalled them, gave them their goal.— Ah, but the way is so long! Years they have been in the wild! Sore thirst plagues them, the rocks, Rising all round, overawe; Factions divide them, their host Threatens to break, to dissolve. —Ah, keep, keep them combined! Else, of the myriads who fill That army, not one shall arrive; Sole they shall stray; on the rocks Batter for ever in vain, Die one by one in the waste.	 176 180 185
If, in the paths of the world, Stones might have wounded thy feet, Toil or dejection have tried Thy spirit, of that we saw Nothing—to us thou wast still Cheerful, and helpful, and firm! Therefore to thee it was given Many to save with thyself; And, at the end of thy day, O faithful shepherd! to come, Bringing thy sheep in thy hand.	 135 140	Then, in such hour of need Of your fainting, dispirited race, Ye, like angels, appear, Radiant with ardor divine. Beacons of hope, ye appear! Languor is not in your heart, Weakness is not in your word, Weariness not on your brow. Ye alight in our van! at your voice Panic, despair, flee away. Ye move through the ranks, recall The stragglers, refresh the outworn, Praise, re-inspire the brave. Order, courage, return; Eyes rekindling, and prayers, Follow your steps as ye go. Ye fill up the gaps in our files, Strengthen the wavering line, Stablish, continue our march, On, to the bound of the waste, On, to the City of God.	 190 195 200 205
And through thee I believe In the noble and great who are gone; Pure souls honored and blest By former ages, who else— Such, so soulless, so poor, Is the race of men whom I see— Seemed but a dream of the heart, Seemed but a cry of desire. Yes! I believe that there lived Others like thee in the past, Not like the men of the crowd Who all round me to-day	 145 150 155		

DOVER BEACH

The sea is calm to-night,
 The tide is full, the moon lies fair
 Upon the straits;—on the French coast
 the light
 Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England
 stand,
 Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil
 bay. 5
 Come to the window, sweet is the night-
 air!

Only, from the long line of spray
 Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd
 land,
 Listen! you hear the grating roar
 Of pebbles which the waves draw back,
 and fling, 10

At their return, up the high strand,
 Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
 With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
 The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago 15
 Heard it on the Ægean, and it brought
 Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow
 Of human misery; we
 Find also in the sound a thought,
 Hearing it by this distant northern sea. 20

The Sea of Faith
 Was once, too, at the full, and round
 earth's shore
 Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
 But now I only hear
 Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar, 25
 Retreating, to the breath
 Of the night-wind, down the vast edges
 drear
 And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
 To one another! for the world, which
 seems 30
 To lie before us like a land of dreams,
 So various, so beautiful, so new,
 Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor
 light,
 Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for
 pain;
 And we are here as on a darkling plain 35
 Swept with confused alarms of struggle
 and flight,
 Where ignorant armies clash by night.

THE LAST WORD

Creep into thy narrow bed,
 Creep, and let no more be said!
 Vain thy onset! all stands fast.
 Thou thyself must break at last.

Let the long contention cease! 5
 Geese are swans, and swans are geese.
 Let them have it how they will!
 Thou art tired; best be still.

They out-talked thee, hissed thee, tore
 thee?
 Better men fared thus before thee; 10
 Fired their ringing shot and passed,
 Hotly charged—and sank at last.

Charge once more, then, and be dumb!
 Let the victors, when they come,
 When the forts of folly fall, 15
 Find thy body by the wall!

LITERATURE AND SCIENCE

Practical people talk with a smile of Plato and of his absolute ideas; and it is impossible to deny that Plato's ideas do often seem unpractical and impracticable, and especially when one views them in connection with the life of a great work-a-day world like the United States. The necessary staple of the life of such a world Plato regards with disdain; handicraft and trade and the working professions [10 he regards with disdain; but what becomes of the life of an industrial modern community if you take handicraft and trade and the working professions out of it? The base mechanic arts and handicrafts, says Plato, bring about a natural weakness in the principle of excellence in a man, so that he cannot govern the ignoble growths in him, but nurses them, and cannot understand fostering any [20 other. Those who exercise such arts and trades, as they have their bodies, he says marred, by their vulgar businesses, so they have their souls, too, bowed and broken by them. And if one of these uncomely people has a mind to seek self-culture and philosophy, Plato compares him to a bald little tinker, who has scraped

together money, and has got his release from service, and has had a bath, and [30 bought a new coat, and is rigged out like a bridegroom about to marry the daughter of his master who has fallen into poor and helpless estate.

Nor do the working professions fare any better than trade at the hands of Plato. He draws for us an inimitable picture of the working lawyer, and of his life of bondage; he shows how this bondage from his youth up has stunted [40 and warped him, and made him small and crooked of soul, encompassing him with difficulties which he is not man enough to rely on justice and truth as means to encounter, but has recourse, for help out of them, to falsehood and wrong. And so, says Plato, this poor creature is bent and broken, and grows up from boy to man without a particle of soundness in him, although exceed- [50 ingly smart and clever in his own esteem.

One cannot refuse to admire the artist who draws these pictures. But we say to ourselves that his ideas show the influence of a primitive and obsolete order of things, when the warrior caste and the priestly caste were alone in honor, and the humble work of the world was done by slaves. We have now changed all that; the mod- [60 ern majority consists in work, as Emerson declares; and in work, we may add, principally of such plain and dusty kind as the work of cultivators of the ground, handicraftsmen, men of trade and business, men of the working professions. Above all is this true in a great industrious community such as that of the United States.

Now education, many people go on [70 to say, is still mainly governed by the ideas of men like Plato, who lived when the warrior caste and the priestly or philosophical class were alone in honor, and the really useful part of the community were slaves. It is an education fitted for persons of leisure in such a community. This education passed from Greece and Rome to the feudal communities of Europe, where also the warrior caste [80 and the priestly caste were alone held in honor, and where the really useful and

working part of the community, though not nominally slaves as in the pagan world, were practically not much better off than slaves, and not more seriously regarded. And how absurd it is, people end by saying, to inflict this education upon an industrious modern community, where very few indeed are per- [90 sons of leisure, and the mass to be considered has not leisure, but is bound, for its own great good, and for the great good of the world at large, to plain labor and to industrial pursuits, and the education in question tends necessarily to make men dissatisfied with these pursuits and unfitted for them!

That is what is said. So far I must defend Plato, as to plead that his view [100 of education and studies is in the general, as it seems to me, sound enough, and fitted for all sorts and conditions of men, whatever their pursuits may be. "An intelligent man," says Plato, "will prize those studies which result in his soul getting soberness, righteousness, and wisdom, and will less value the others." I cannot consider *that* a bad description of the aim of education, and of the mo- [110 tives which should govern us in the choice of studies, whether we are preparing ourselves for a hereditary seat in the English House of Lords or for the pork trade in Chicago.

Still I admit that Plato's world was not ours, that his scorn of trade and handicraft is fantastic, that he had no conception of a great industrial community such as that of the United States, and [120 that such a community must and will shape its education to suit its own needs. If the usual education handed down to it from the past does not suit it, it will certainly before long drop this and try another. The usual education in the past has been mainly literary. The question is whether the studies which were long supposed to be the best for all of us are practically the best now; whether [130 others are not better. The tyranny of the past, many think, weighs on us injuriously in the predominance given to letters in education. The question is raised whether, to meet the needs of our modern life, the predominance ought

not now to pass from letters to science; and naturally the question is nowhere raised with more energy than here in the United States. The design of abasing [140 what is called "mere literary instruction and education," and of exalting what is called "sound, extensive, and practical scientific knowledge," is, in this intensely modern world of the United States, even more perhaps than in Europe, a very popular design, and makes great and rapid progress.

I am going to take whether the present movement for ousting letters from their [150 old predominance in education, and for transferring the predominance in education to the natural sciences, whether this brisk and flourishing movement ought to prevail, and whether it is likely that in the end it really will prevail. An objection may be raised which I will anticipate. My own studies have been almost wholly in letters, and my visits to the field of the natural sciences have been [160 very slight and inadequate, although those sciences have always strongly moved my curiosity. A man of letters, it will perhaps be said, is not competent to discuss the comparative merits of letters and natural science as means of education. To this objection I reply, first of all, that his incompetence, if he attempts the discussion but is really incompetent for it, will be abundantly visible; nobody will be [170 taken in; he will have plenty of sharp observers and critics to save mankind from that danger. But the line I am going to follow is, as you will soon discover, so extremely simple, that perhaps it may be followed without failure even by one who for a more ambitious line of discussion would be quite incompetent.

Some of you may possibly remember [180 a phrase of mine which has been the object of a good deal of comment; an observation to the effect that in our culture, the aim being to *know ourselves and the world*, we have, as the means to this end, *to know the best which has been thought and said in the world*. A man of science, who is also an excellent writer and the very prince of debaters, Professor Huxley, in a discourse at the opening of Sir Josiah Mason's [190

college at Birmingham, laying hold of this phrase, expanded it by quoting some more words of mine, which are these: "The civilised world is to be regarded as now being, for intellectual and spiritual purposes, one great confederation, bound to a joint action and working to a common result; and whose members have for their proper outfit a knowledge of Greek, Roman, and Eastern antiquity, [200 and of one another. Special local and temporary advantages being put out of account, that modern nation will in the intellectual and spiritual sphere make most progress, which most thoroughly carries out this programme."

Now on my phrase, thus enlarged, Professor Huxley remarks that when I speak of the above-mentioned knowledge as enabling us to know ourselves and [210 the world, I assert *literature* to contain the materials which suffice for thus making us know ourselves and the world. But it is not by any means clear, says he, that after having learnt all which ancient and modern literatures have to tell us, we have laid a sufficiently broad and deep foundation for that criticism of life, that knowledge of ourselves and the world, which constitutes culture. On the [220 contrary, Professor Huxley declares that he finds himself "wholly unable to admit that either nations or individuals will really advance, if their outfit draws nothing from the stores of physical science. An army without weapons of precision, and with no particular base of operations, might more hopefully enter upon a campaign on the Rhine, than a man, devoid of a knowledge of [230 what physical science has done in the last century, upon a criticism of life."

This shows how needful it is for those who are to discuss any matter together, to have a common understanding as to the sense of the terms they employ,—how needful, and how difficult. What Professor Huxley says, implies just the reproach which is so often brought [240 against the study of *belles lettres*, as they are called: that the study is an elegant one, but slight and ineffectual; a smattering of Greek and Latin and other orna-

mental things, of little use for any one whose object is to get at truth, and to be a practical man. So, too, M. Renan talks of the "superficial humanism" of a school-course which treats us as if we were all going to be poets, writers, preachers, [250 orators, and he opposes this humanism to positive science, or the critical search after truth. And there is always a tendency in those who are remonstrating against the predominance of letters in education, to understand by letters *belles lettres*, and by *belles lettres* a superficial humanism, the opposite of science or true knowledge.

But when we talk of knowing Greek [260 and Roman antiquity, for instance, which is the knowledge people have called the humanities, I for my part mean a knowledge which is something more than a superficial humanism, mainly decorative. "I call all teaching *scientific*," says Wolf, the critic of Homer, "which is systematically laid out and followed up to its original sources. For example: a knowledge of classical antiquity is scientific [270 when the remains of classical antiquity are correctly studied in the original languages." There can be no doubt that Wolf is perfectly right; that all learning is scientific which is systematically laid out and followed up to its original sources, and that a genuine humanism is scientific.

When I speak of knowing Greek and Roman antiquity, therefore, as a help to knowing ourselves and the world, I [280 mean more than a knowledge of so much vocabulary, so much grammar, so many portions of authors in the Greek and Latin languages, I mean knowing the Greeks and Romans, and their life and genius, and what they were and did in the world; what we get from them, and what is its value. That, at least, is the ideal; and when we talk of endeavoring to know Greek and Roman antiquity, as a [290 help to knowing ourselves and the world, we mean endeavoring so to know them as to satisfy this ideal, however much we may still fall short of it.

The same also as to knowing our own and other modern nations, with the like aim of getting to understand ourselves and the world. To know the best that

has been thought and said by the modern nations, is to know, says Professor [300 Huxley, "only what modern *literatures* have to tell us; it is the criticism of life contained in modern literature." And yet "the distinctive character of our times," he urges, "lies in the vast and constantly increasing part which is played by natural knowledge." And how, therefore, can a man, devoid of knowledge of what physical science has done in the last century, enter hopefully upon a [310 criticism of modern life?

Let us, I say, be agreed about the meaning of the terms we are using. I talk of knowing the best which has been thought and uttered in the world; Professor Huxley says this means knowing *literature*. Literature is a large word; it may mean everything written with letters or printed in a book. Euclid's *Elements* and Newton's *Principia* are thus [320 literature. All knowledge that reaches us through books is literature. But by literature Professor Huxley means *belles lettres*. He means to make me say, that knowing the best which has been thought and said by the modern nations is knowing their *belles lettres* and no more. And this is no sufficient equipment, he argues, for a criticism of modern life. But as I do not mean, by knowing ancient Rome, [330 knowing merely more or less of Latin *belles lettres*, and taking no account of Rome's military, and political, and legal, and administrative work in the world; and as, by knowing ancient Greece, I understand knowing her as the giver of Greek art, and the guide to a free and right use of reason and to scientific method, and the founder of our mathematics and physics and astronomy [340 and biology,—I understand knowing her as all this, and not merely knowing certain Greek poems, and histories, and treatises, and speeches,—so as to the knowledge of modern nations also. By knowing modern nations, I mean not merely knowing their *belles lettres*, but knowing also what has been done by such men as Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Darwin. "Our ancestors learned," says Pro- [350 fessor Huxley, "that the earth is the centre of the visible universe, and that

man is the cynosure of things terrestrial; and more especially was it inculcated that the course of nature has no fixed order, but that it could be, and constantly was, altered." But for us now, continues Professor Huxley, "the notions of the beginning and the end of the world entertained by our forefathers are no longer [360 credible. It is very certain that the earth is not the chief body in the material universe, and that the world is not subordinated to man's use. It is even more certain that nature is the expression of a definite order, with which nothing interferes." "And yet," he cries, "the purely classical education advocated by the representatives of the humanists in our day gives no inkling of all this!" [370

In due place and time I will just touch upon that vexed question of classical education; but at present the question is as to what is meant by knowing the best which modern nations have thought and said. It is not knowing their *belles lettres* merely which is meant. To know Italian *belles lettres* is not to know Italy, and to know English *belles lettres* is not to know England. Into knowing Italy and [380 England there comes a great deal more, Galileo and Newton amongst it. The reproach of being a superficial humanism, a tincture of *belles lettres*, may attach rightly enough to some other disciplines; but to the particular discipline recommended when I proposed knowing the best that has been thought and said in the world, it does not apply. In that best I certainly include what in mod- [390 ern times has been thought and said by the great observers and knowers of nature.

There is, therefore, really no question between Professor Huxley and me as to whether knowing the great results of the modern scientific study of nature is not required as a part of our culture, as well as knowing the products of literature and art. But to follow the processes by [400 which those results are reached, ought, say the friends of physical science, to be made the staple of education for the bulk of mankind. And here there does arise a question between those whom Professor Huxley calls with playful sar-

casm "the Levites of culture," and those whom the poor humanist is sometimes apt to regard as its Nebuchadnezzars.

The great results of the scientific [410 investigation of nature we are agreed upon knowing, but how much of our study are we bound to give to the processes by which those results are reached? The results have their visible bearing on human life. But all the processes, too, all the items of fact by which those results are reached and established, are interesting. All knowledge is interesting to a wise man, and the knowledge of na- [420 ture is interesting to all men. It is very interesting to know, that, from the albuminous white of the egg, the chick in the egg gets the materials for its flesh, bones, blood, and feathers; while, from the fatty yolk of the egg, it gets the heat and energy which enable it at length to break its shell and begin the world. It is less interesting, perhaps, but still it is interesting, to know that when a [430 taper burns, the wax is converted into carbonic acid and water. Moreover, it is quite true that the habit of dealing with facts, which is given by the study of nature, is, as the friends of physical science praise it for being, an excellent discipline. The appeal, in the study of nature, is constantly to observation and experiment; not only is it said that the thing is so, but we can be made to see [440 that it is so. Not only does a man tell us that when a taper burns the wax is converted into carbonic acid and water, as a man may tell us, if he likes, that Charon is punting his ferry-boat on the river Styx, or that Victor Hugo is a sublime poet, or Mr. Gladstone the most admirable of statesmen; but we are made to see that the conversion into carbonic acid and water does actually happen. [450 This reality of natural knowledge it is, which makes the friends of physical science contrast it, as a knowledge of things, with the humanist's knowledge, which is, they say, a knowledge of words. And hence Professor Huxley is moved to lay it down that, "for the purpose of attaining real culture, an exclusively scientific education is at least as effectual as an exclusively literary education." And [460

a certain President of the Section for Mechanical Science in the British Association is, in Scripture phrase, "very bold," and declares that if a man, in his mental training, "has substituted literature and history for natural science, he has chosen the less useful alternative." But whether we go these lengths or not, we must all admit that in natural science the habit gained of dealing with facts [470 is a most valuable discipline, and that every one should have some experience of it.

More than this, however, is demanded by the reformers. It is proposed to make the training in natural science the main part of education, for the great majority of mankind at any rate. And here, I confess, I part company with the friends of physical science, with whom up to [480 this point I have been agreeing. In differing from them, however, I wish to proceed with the utmost caution and diffidence. The smallness of my own acquaintance with the disciplines of natural science is ever before my mind, and I am fearful of doing these disciplines an injustice. The ability and pugnacity of the partisans of natural science make them formidable persons to contra- [490 dict. The tone of tentative inquiry, which befits a being of dim faculties and bounded knowledge, is the tone I would wish to take and not to depart from. At present it seems to me, that those who are for giving to natural knowledge, as they call it, the chief place in the education of the majority of mankind, leave one important thing out of their account: the constitution of human nature. But I put this [500 forward on the strength of some facts not at all recondite, very far from it; facts capable of being stated in the simplest possible fashion, and to which, if I so state them, the man of science will, I am sure, be willing to allow their due weight.

Deny the facts altogether, I think, he hardly can. He can hardly deny, that when we set ourselves to enumerate [510 the powers which go to the building up of human life, and say that they are the power of conduct, the power of intellect and knowledge, the power of beauty, and

the power of social life and manners,—he can hardly deny that this scheme, though drawn in rough and plain lines enough, and not pretending to scientific exactness, does yet give a fairly true representation of the matter. Human nature is [520 built up by these powers; we have the need for them all. When we have rightly met and adjusted the claims of them all, we shall then be in a fair way for getting soberness and righteousness, with wisdom. This is evident enough, and the friends of physical science would admit it.

But perhaps they may not have sufficiently observed another thing: [530 namely, that the several powers just mentioned are not isolated, but there is, in the generality of mankind, a perpetual tendency to relate them one to another in divers ways. With one such way of relating them I am particularly concerned now. Following our instinct for intellect and knowledge, we acquire pieces of knowledge; and presently, in the generality of men, there arises the desire [540 to relate these pieces of knowledge to our sense for conduct, to our sense for beauty,—and there is weariness and dissatisfaction if the desire is balked. Now in this desire lies, I think, the strength of that hold which letters have upon us.

All knowledge is, as I said just now, interesting; and even items of knowledge which from the nature of the case [550 cannot well be related, but must stand isolated in our thoughts, have their interest. Even lists of exceptions have their interest. If we are studying Greek accents, it is interesting to know that *país* and *pas*, and some other monosyllables of the same form of declension, do not take the circumflex upon the last syllable of the genitive plural, but vary, in this respect, from the common rule. [560 If we are studying physiology, it is interesting to know that the pulmonary artery carries dark blood and the pulmonary vein carries bright blood, departing in this respect from the common rule for the division of labor between the veins and the arteries. But every one knows how we seek naturally to combine

the pieces of our knowledge together, to bring them under general rules, to [570 relate them to principles; and how unsatisfactory and tiresome it would be to go on for ever learning lists of exceptions, or accumulating items of fact which must stand isolated.

Well, that same need of relating our knowledge, which operates here within the sphere of our knowledge itself, we shall find operating, also, outside that sphere. We experience, as we go on [580 learning and knowing,—the vast majority of us experience,—the need of relating what we have learned and known to the sense which we have in us for conduct, to the sense which we have in us for beauty.

A certain Greek prophetess of Mantinea in Arcadia, Diotima by name, once explained to the philosopher Socrates that love, and impulse, and [590 bent of all kinds, is, in fact, nothing else but the desire in men that good should for ever be present to them. This desire for good, Diotima assured Socrates, is our fundamental desire, of which fundamental desire every impulse in us is only some one particular form. And therefore this fundamental desire it is, I suppose,—this desire in men that good should be for ever present to them,—which [600 acts in us when we feel the impulse for relating our knowledge to our sense for conduct and to our sense for beauty. At any rate, with men in general the instinct exists. Such is human nature. And the instinct, it will be admitted, is innocent, and human nature is preserved by our following the lead of its innocent instincts. Therefore, in seeking to gratify this instinct in question, we are fol- [610 lowing the instinct of self-preservation in humanity.

But, no doubt, some kinds of knowledge cannot be made to directly serve the instinct in question, cannot be directly related to the sense for beauty, to the sense for conduct. These are instrument-knowledges; they lead on to other knowledges, which can. A man who passes his life in instrument-knowledges is [620 a specialist. They may be invaluable as instruments to something beyond, for

those who have the gift thus to employ them; and they may be disciplines in themselves wherein it is useful for every one to have some schooling. But it is inconceivable that the generality of men should pass all their mental life with Greek accents or with formal logic. My friend Professor Sylvester, who is [630 one of the first mathematicians in the world, holds transcendental doctrines as to the virtue of mathematics, but those doctrines are not for common men. In the very Senate House and heart of our English Cambridge I once ventured, though not without an apology for my profaneness, to hazard the opinion that for the majority of mankind a little of mathematics, even, goes a long way. [640 Of course this is quite consistent with their being of immense importance as an instrument to something else; but it is the few who have the aptitude for thus using them, not the bulk of mankind.

The natural sciences do not, however, stand on the same footing with these instrument-knowledges. Experience shows us that the generality of men will find more interest in learning that, [650 when a taper burns, the wax is converted into carbonic acid and water, or in learning the explanation of the phenomenon of dew, or in learning how the circulation of the blood is carried on, than they find in learning that the genitive plural of *pais* and *pas* does not take the circumflex on the termination. And one piece of natural knowledge is added to another, and others are added to that, [660 and at last we come to propositions so interesting as Mr. Darwin's famous proposition that "our ancestor was a hairy quadruped furnished with a tail and pointed ears, probably arboreal in his habits." Or we come to propositions of such reach and magnitude as those which Professor Huxley delivers, when he says that the notions of our forefathers about the beginning and the end of [670 the world were all wrong, and that nature is the expression of a definite order with which nothing interferes.

Interesting, indeed, these results of science are, important they are, and we should all of us be acquainted with them.

But what I now wish you to mark is, that we are still, when they are propounded to us and we receive them, we are still in the sphere of intellect and [680 knowledge. And for the generality of men there will be found, I say, to arise, when they have duly taken in the proposition that their ancestor was "a hairy quadruped furnished with a tail and pointed ears, probably arboreal in his habits," there will be found to arise an invincible desire to relate this proposition to the sense in us for conduct, and to the sense in us for beauty. But this the [690 men of science will not do for us, and will hardly even profess to do. They will give us other pieces of knowledge, other facts, about other animals and their ancestors, or about plants, or about stones, or about stars; and they may finally bring us to those great "general conceptions of the universe, which are forced upon us all," says Professor Huxley, "by the progress of physical science." [700 But still it will be *knowledge* only which they give us; knowledge not put for us into relation with our sense for conduct, our sense for beauty, and touched with emotion by being so put; not thus put for us, and therefore, to the majority of mankind, after a certain while, unsatisfying, wearying.

Not to the born naturalist, I admit. But what do we mean by a born naturalist? We mean a man in whom [710 the zeal for observing nature is so uncommonly strong and eminent, that it marks him off from the bulk of mankind. Such a man will pass his life happily in collecting natural knowledge and reasoning upon it, and will ask for nothing, or hardly anything, more. I have heard it said that the sagacious and admirable naturalist whom we lost not very long ago, Mr. Darwin, once owned to a friend [720 that for his part he did not experience the necessity for two things which most men find so necessary to them,—religion and poetry; science and the domestic affections, he thought, were enough. To a born naturalist, I can well understand that this should seem so. So absorbing is his occupation with nature, so strong his love for his occupation, that he goes on acquiring natural knowledge and [730

reasoning upon it, and has little time or inclination for thinking about getting it related to the desire in man for conduct, the desire in man for beauty. He relates it to them for himself as he goes along, so far as he feels the need; and he draws from the domestic affections all the additional solace necessary. But then Darwins are extremely rare. Another great and admirable master of natural [740 knowledge, Faraday, was a Sandemanian. That is to say, he related his knowledge to his instinct for conduct and to his instinct for beauty, by the aid of that respectable Scottish sectary, Robert Sandeman. And so strong, in general, is the demand of religion and poetry to have their share in a man, to associate themselves with his knowing, and to relieve and rejoice it, that probably, [750 for one man amongst us with the disposition to do as Darwin did in this respect, there are at least fifty with the disposition to do as Faraday.

Education lays hold upon us, in fact, by satisfying this demand. Professor Huxley holds up to scorn mediæval education, with its neglect of the knowledge of nature, its poverty even of literary studies, its formal logic devoted to [760 "showing how and why that which the Church said was true must be true." But the great mediæval universities were not brought into being, we may be sure, by the zeal for giving a jejune and contemptible education. Kings have been their nursing fathers, and queens have been their nursing mothers, but not for this. The mediæval universities came into being, because the supposed [770 knowledge, delivered by Scripture and the Church, so deeply engaged men's hearts, by so simply, easily, and powerfully relating itself to their desire for conduct, their desire for beauty. All other knowledge was dominated by this supposed knowledge and was subordinated to it, because of the surpassing strength of the hold which it gained upon the affections of men, by allying itself pro- [780 foundly with their sense for conduct, their sense for beauty.

But now, says Professor Huxley, conceptions of the universe fatal to the no-

tions held by our forefathers have been forced upon us by physical science. Grant to him that they are thus fatal, that the new conceptions must and will soon become current everywhere, and that every one will finally perceive [790] them to be fatal to the beliefs of our forefathers. The need of humane letters, as they are truly called, because they serve the paramount desire in men that good should be for ever present to them,—the need of humane letters to establish a relation between the new conceptions, and our instinct for beauty, our instinct for conduct, is only the more visible. The Middle Age could do without humane [800] letters, as it could do without the study of nature, because its supposed knowledge was made to engage its emotions so powerfully. Grant that the supposed knowledge disappears, its power of being made to engage the emotions will of course disappear along with it,—but the emotions themselves, and their claim to be engaged and satisfied, will remain. Now if we find by experience that humane [810] letters have an undeniable power of engaging the emotions, the importance of humane letters in a man's training becomes not less, but greater, in proportion to the success of modern science in extirpating what it calls "mediæval thinking."

Have humane letters, then, have poetry and eloquence, the power here attributed to them of engaging the emotions, [820] and do they exercise it? And if they have it and exercise it, *how* do they exercise it, so as to exert an influence upon man's sense for conduct, his sense for beauty? Finally, even if they both can and do exert an influence upon the senses in question, how are they to relate to them the results,—the modern results,—of natural science? All these questions may be asked. First, have poetry and elo- [830] quence the power of calling out the emotions? The appeal is to experience. Experience shows that for the vast majority of men, for mankind in general, they have the power. Next, do they exercise it? They do. But then, *how* do they exercise it so as to affect man's sense for conduct, his sense for beauty?

And this is perhaps a case for applying the Preacher's words: "Though a [840] man labor to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea, farther, though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it."¹ Why should it be one thing, in its effect upon the emotions, to say, "Patience is a virtue," and quite another thing, in its effect upon the emotions, to say with Homer,

τλητὸν γὰρ Μοῖραι θυμὸν θέσαν ἀνθρώποισιν—²

"for an enduring heart have the des- [850] tinies appointed to the children of men"? Why should it be one thing, in its effect upon the emotions, to say with the philosopher Spinoza, *Felicitas in eo consistit quod homo suum esse conservare potest*—"Man's happiness consists in his being able to preserve his own essence," and quite another thing, in its effect upon the emotions, to say with the Gospel, "What is a man advantaged, if he gain [860] the whole world, and lose himself, forfeit himself?" How does this difference of effect arise? I cannot tell, and I am not much concerned to know; the important thing is that it does arise, and that we can profit by it. But how, finally, are poetry and eloquence to exercise the power of relating the modern results of natural science to man's instinct for conduct, his instinct for beauty? And here [870] again I answer that I do not know *how* they will exercise it, but that they can and will exercise it I am sure. I do not mean that modern philosophical poets and modern philosophical moralists are to come and relate for us, in express terms, the results of modern scientific research to our instinct for conduct, our instinct for beauty. But I mean that we shall find, as a matter of experience, if we know [880] the best that has been thought and uttered in the world, we shall find that the art and poetry and eloquence of men who lived, perhaps, long ago, who had the most limited natural knowledge, who had the most erroneous conceptions about many important matters, we shall find that this art, and poetry, and eloquence, have in fact not only the power of refreshing and delighting us, they have also [890]

¹ Ecclesiastes, viii, 17.

² Iliad, xxiv, 49.

the power,—such is the strength and worth, in essentials, of their authors' criticism of life,—they have a fortifying, and elevating, and quickening, and suggestive power, capable of wonderfully helping us to relate the results of modern science to our need for conduct, our need for beauty. Homer's conceptions of the physical universe were, I imagine, grotesque; but really, under the shock [900 of hearing from modern science that "the world is not subordinated to man's use, and that man is not the cynosure of things terrestrial," I could, for my own part, desire no better comfort than Homer's line which I quoted just now,

τλητὸν γὰρ Μοῖραι θυμὸν θέσαν ἀνθρώποισιν—

"for an enduring heart have the destinies appointed to the children of men"!

And the more that men's minds [910 are cleared, the more that the results of science are frankly accepted, the more that poetry and eloquence come to be received and studied as what in truth they really are,—the criticism of life by gifted men, alive and active with extraordinary power at an unusual number of points;—so much the more will the value of humane letters, and of art also, which is an utterance having a like [920 kind of power with theirs, be felt and acknowledged, and their place in education be secured.

Let us therefore, all of us, avoid indeed as much as possible any invidious comparison between the merits of humane letters, as means of education, and the merits of the natural sciences. But when some President of a Section for Mechanical Science insists on making [930 the comparison, and tells us that "he who in his training has substituted literature and history for natural science has chosen the less useful alternative," let us make answer to him that the student of humane letters only, will, at least, know also the great general conceptions brought in by modern physical science; for science, as Professor Huxley says, forces them upon us all. But the stu- [940 dent of the natural sciences only, will, by our very hypothesis, know nothing of

humane letters; not to mention that in setting himself to be perpetually accumulating natural knowledge, he sets himself to do what only specialists have in general the gift for doing genially. And so he will probably be unsatisfied, or at any rate incomplete, and even more incomplete than the student of hu- [950 mane letters only.

I once mentioned in a school-report, how a young man in one of our English training colleges having to paraphrase the passage in *Macbeth* beginning,

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?"

turned this line into, "Can you not wait upon the lunatic?" And I remarked what a curious state of things it would be, if every pupil of our national [960 schools knew, let us say, that the moon is two thousand one hundred and sixty miles in diameter, and thought at the same time that a good paraphrase for

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?"

was, "Can you not wait upon the lunatic?" If one is driven to choose, I think I would rather have a young person ignorant about the moon's diameter, but aware that "Can you not wait upon [970 the lunatic?" is bad, than a young person whose education had been such as to manage things the other way.

Or to go higher than the pupils of our national schools. I have in my mind's eye a member of our British Parliament who comes to travel here in America, who afterwards relates his travels, and who shows a really masterly knowledge of the geology of this great country [980 and of its mining capabilities, but who ends by gravely suggesting that the United States should borrow a prince from our Royal Family, and should make him their king, and should create a House of Lords of great landed proprietors after the pattern of ours; and then America, he thinks, would have her future happily and perfectly secured. Surely, in this case, the President of the Section for [990

Mechanical Science would himself hardly say that our member of Parliament, by concentrating himself upon geology and mineralogy, and so on, and not attending to literature and history, had "chosen the more useful alternative."

If then there is to be separation and option between humane letters on the one hand, and the natural sciences on the other, the great majority of man- [1000 kind, all who have not exceptional and overpowering aptitudes for the study of nature, would do well, I cannot but think, to choose to be educated in humane letters rather than in the natural sciences. Letters will call out their being at more points, will make them live more.

I said that before I ended I would just touch on the question of classical education, and I will keep my word. Even [1010 if literature is to retain a large place in our education, yet Latin and Greek, say the friends of progress, will certainly have to go. Greek is the grand offender in the eyes of these gentlemen. The attackers of the established course of study think that against Greek, at any rate, they have irresistible arguments. Literature may perhaps be needed in education, they say; but why on earth should it [1020 be Greek literature? Why not French or German? Nay, "has not an Englishman models in his own literature of every kind of excellence?" As before, it is not on any weak pleadings of my own that I rely for convincing the gainsayers; it is on the constitution of human nature itself, and on the instinct of self-preservation in humanity. The instinct for beauty is set in human nature, as surely as the [1030 instinct for knowledge is set there, or the instinct for conduct. If the instinct for beauty is served by Greek literature and art as it is served by no other literature and art, we may trust to the instinct of self-preservation in humanity for keeping Greek as part of our culture. We may trust to it for even making the study of Greek more prevalent than it is now. Greek will come, I hope, some day [1040 to be studied more rationally than at present; but it will be increasingly studied as men increasingly feel the need in them for beauty, and how powerfully Greek

art and Greek literature can serve this need. Women will again study Greek, as Lady Jane Grey did; I believe that in that chain of forts, with which the fair host of the Amazons are now engirdling our English universities, I find that [1050 here in America, in colleges like Smith College in Massachusetts, and Vassar College in the State of New York, and in the happy families of the mixed universities out West, they are studying it already.

Defuit una mihi symmetria prisca,—"The antique symmetry was the one thing wanting to me," said Leonardo da Vinci; and he was an Italian. I will [1060 not presume to speak for the Americans, but I am sure that, in the Englishman, the want of this admirable symmetry of the Greeks is a thousand times more great and crying than in any Italian. The results of the want show themselves most glaringly, perhaps, in our architecture, but they show themselves, also, in all our art. *Fit details strictly combined, in view of a large general result nobly* [1070 *conceived*; that is just the beautiful *symmetria prisca* of the Greeks, and it is just where we English fail, where all our art fails. Striking ideas we have, and well-executed details we have; but that high symmetry which, with satisfying and delightful effect, combines them, we seldom or never have. The glorious beauty of the Acropolis at Athens did not come from single fine things [1080 stuck about on that hill, a statue here, a gateway there;—no, it arose from all things being perfectly combined for a supreme total effect. What must not an Englishman feel about our deficiencies in this respect, as the sense for beauty, whereof this symmetry is an essential element, awakens and strengthens within him! what will not one day be his respect and desire for Greece and its [1090 *symmetria prisca*, when the scales drop from his eyes as he walks the London streets, and he sees such a lesson in meanness as the Strand, for instance, in its true deformity! But here we are coming to our friend Mr. Ruskin's province, and I will not intrude upon it, for he is its very sufficient guardian.

And so we at last find, it seems, we find flowing in favor of the humanities the [1100 natural and necessary stream of things, which seemed against them when we started. The "hairy quadruped furnished with a tail and pointed ears, probably arboreal in his habits," this good fellow carried hidden in his nature, apparently, something destined to develop into a necessity for humane letters. Nay, more; we seem finally to be even led to the further conclusion that our hairy an- [1110 cestor carried in his nature, also, a necessity for Greek.

And therefore, to say the truth, I cannot really think that humane letters are in much actual danger of being thrust out from their leading place in education, in spite of the array of authorities against them at this moment. So long as human nature is what it is, their attractions will remain irresistible. As with Greek, [1120 so with letters generally: they will some day come, we may hope, to be studied more rationally, but they will not lose their place. What will happen will rather be that there will be crowded into education other matters besides, far too many; there will be, perhaps, a period of unsettlement and confusion and false tendency; but letters will not in the end lose their leading place. If they lose [1130 it for a time, they will get it back again. We shall be brought back to them by our wants and aspirations. And a poor humanist may possess his soul in patience, neither strive nor cry, admit the energy and brilliancy of the partisans of physical science, and their present favor with the public, to be far greater than his own, and still have a happy faith that the nature of things works silently on [1140 behalf of the studies which he loves, and that, while we shall all have to acquaint ourselves with the great results reached by modern science, and to give ourselves as much training in its disciplines as we can conveniently carry, yet the majority of men will always require humane letters; and so much the more, as they have the more and the greater results of science to relate [1150 to the need in man for conduct, and to the need in him for beauty.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY (1825-1895)

ON THE ADVISABLENESS OF IMPROVING NATURAL KNOWLEDGE

This time two hundred years ago—in the beginning of January, 1666—those of our forefathers who inhabited this great and ancient city, took breath between the shocks of two fearful calamities: one not quite past, although its fury had abated; the other to come.

Within a few yards of the very spot on which we are assembled, so the tradition runs, that painful and deadly malady, [10 the plague, appeared in the latter months of 1664; and, though no new visitor, smote the people of England, and especially of her capital, with a violence unknown before, in the course of the following year. The hand of a master has pictured what happened in those dismal months; and in that truest of fictions, *The History of the Plague Year*, Defoe shows death, with every accom- [20 paniment of pain and terror, stalking through the narrow streets of old London, and changing their busy hum into a silence broken only by the wailing of the mourners of fifty thousand dead; by the woful denunciations and mad prayers of fanatics; and by the madder yells of despairing profligates.

But, about this time, in 1666, the death-rate had sunk to nearly its ordinary [30 amount; a case of plague occurred only here and there, and the richer citizens who had flown from the pest had returned to their dwellings. The remnant of the people began to toil at the accustomed round of duty, or of pleasure; and the stream of city life bid fair to flow back along its old bed, with renewed and uninterrupted vigor.

The newly-kindled hope was deceit- [40 ful. The great plague, indeed, returned no more; but what it had done for the Londoners, the great fire, which broke out in the autumn of 1666, did for London; and, in September of that year, a heap of ashes and the indestructible energy of the people were all that remained of the glory of five-sixths of the city within the walls.

Our forefathers had their own ways [50 of accounting for each of these calamities. They submitted to the plague in humility and in penitence, for they believed it to be the judgment of God. But towards the fire they were furiously indignant, interpreting it as the effect of the malice of man,—as the work of the Republicans, or of the Papists, according as their prepossessions ran in favor of loyalty or of Puritanism. [60

It would, I fancy, have fared but ill with one who, standing where I now stand, in what was then a thickly-peopled and fashionable part of London, should have broached to our ancestors the doctrine which I now propound to you—that all their hypotheses were alike wrong; that the plague was no more, in their sense, Divine judgment, than the fire was the work of any political, or [70 of any religious, sect; but that they were themselves the authors of both plague and fire, and that they must look to themselves to prevent the recurrence of calamities, to all appearance so peculiarly beyond the reach of human control—so evidently the result of the wrath of God, or of the craft and subtlety of an enemy.

And one may picture to one's self how harmoniously the holy cursing of the [80 Puritan of that day would have chimed in with the unholy cursing and the crackling wit of the Rochesters and Sedleys, and with the revilings of the political fanatics, if my imaginary plain dealer had gone on to say that, if the return of such misfortunes were ever rendered impossible, it would not be in virtue of the victory of the faith of Laud, or of that of Milton; and, as little, by the triumph [90 of republicanism, as by that of monarchy. But that the one thing needful for compassing this end was, that the people of England should second the efforts of an insignificant corporation, the establishment of which, a few years before the epoch of the great plague and the great fire, had been as little noticed, as they were conspicuous.

Some twenty years before the out- [100 break of the plague a few calm and thoughtful students banded themselves

together for the purpose, as they phrased it, of "improving natural knowledge." The ends they proposed to attain cannot be stated more clearly than in the words of one of the founders of the organisation:—

"Our business was (precluding matters of theology and state affairs) to discourse and consider of philosophical en- [110 quiries, and such as related thereunto:—as Physick, Anatomy, Geometry, Astronomy, Navigation, Staticks, Magneticks, Chymicks, Mechanicks, and Natural Experiments; with the state of these studies and their cultivation at home and abroad. We then discoursed of the circulation of the blood, the valves in the veins, the *venæ lacteæ*, the lymphatic vessels, the Copernican hypothesis, [120 the nature of comets and new stars, the satellites of Jupiter, the oval shape (as it then appeared) of Saturn, the spots on the sun and its turning on its own axis, the inequalities and selenography of the moon, the several phases of Venus and Mercury, the improvement of telescopes and grinding of glasses for that purpose, the weight of air, the possibility or impossibility of vacuities and nature's [130 abhorrence thereof, the Torricellian experiment in quicksilver, the descent of heavy bodies and the degree of acceleration therein, with divers other things of like nature, some of which were then but new discoveries, and others not so generally known and embraced as now they are; with other things appertaining to what hath been called the New Philosophy, which from the times of Galileo [140 at Florence, and Sir Francis Bacon (Lord Verulam) in England, hath been much cultivated in Italy, France, Germany, and other parts abroad, as well as with us in England."

The learned Dr. Wallis, writing in 1696, narrates in these words what happened half a century before, or about 1645. The associates met at Oxford, in the rooms of Dr. Wilkins, who was destined to [150 become a bishop; and subsequently coming together in London, they attracted the notice of the king. And it is a strange evidence of the taste for knowledge which the most obviously worthless of the Stuarts shared with his father and grand-

father, that Charles the Second was not content with saying witty things about his philosophers, but did wise things with regard to them. For he not only be- [160 stowed upon them such attention as he could spare from his poodles and his mistresses, but, being in his usual state of impecuniosity, begged for them of the Duke of Ormond; and, that step being without effect, gave them Chelsea College, a charter, and a mace: crowning his favors in the best way they could be crowned, by burdening them no further with royal patronage or state inter- [170 ference.

Thus it was that the half-dozen young men, studious of the "New Philosophy," who met in one another's lodgings in Oxford or in London, in the middle of the seventeenth century, grew in numerical and in real strength, until, in its latter part, the "Royal Society for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge" had already become famous, and had acquired a [180 claim upon the veneration of Englishmen, which it has ever since retained, as the principal focus of scientific activity in our islands, and the chief champion of the cause it was formed to support.

It was by the aid of the Royal Society that Newton published his *Principia*. If all the books in the world, except the *Philosophical Transactions*, were destroyed, it is safe to say that the founda- [190 tions of physical science would remain unshaken, and that the vast intellectual progress of the last two centuries would be largely, though incompletely, recorded. Nor have any signs of halting or of decrepitude manifested themselves in our own times. As in Dr. Wallis's days, so in these, "our business is, precluding theology and state affairs, to discourse and consider of philosophical en- [200 quiries." But our "Mathematick" is one which Newton would have to go to school to learn; our "Statics, Mechanics, Magneticks, Chymicks, and Natural Experiments" constitute a mass of physical and chemical knowledge, a glimpse at which would compensate Galileo for the doings of a score of inquisitorial cardinals, our "Physick" and "Anatomy" have embraced such [210

infinite varieties of being, have laid open such new worlds in time and space, have grappled, not unsuccessfully, with such complex problems, that the eyes of Vesalius and of Harvey might be dazzled by the sight of the tree that has grown out of their grain of mustard seed.

The fact is perhaps rather too much, than too little, forced upon one's notice, nowadays, that all this marvellous [220 intellectual growth has a no less wonderful expression in practical life; and that, in this respect, if in no other, the movement symbolized by the progress of the Royal Society stands without a parallel in the history of mankind.

A series of volumes as bulky as the *Transactions of the Royal Society* might possibly be filled with the subtle speculations of the Schoolmen; not improb- [230 ably the obtaining a mastery over the products of mediæval thought might necessitate an even greater expenditure of time and of energy than the acquirement of the "New Philosophy"; but though such work engrossed the best intellects of Europe for a longer time than has elapsed since the great fire, its effects were "writ in water," so far as our social state is concerned. [240

On the other hand, if the noble first President of the Royal Society could revisit the upper air and once more gladden his eyes with a sight of the familiar mace, he would find himself in the midst of a material civilization more different from that of his day, than that of the seventeenth was from that of the first century. And if Lord Brouncker's native sagacity had not deserted his ghost, he [250 would need no long reflection to discover that all these great ships, these railways, these telegraphs, these factories, these printing-presses, without which the whole fabric of modern English society would collapse into a mass of stagnant and starving pauperism,—that all these pillars of our State are but the ripples and the bubbles upon the surface of that great spiritual stream, the springs of which [260 only, he and his fellows were privileged to see; and seeing, to recognize as that which it behoved them above all things to keep pure and undefiled.

It may not be too great a flight of imagination to conceive our noble *revenant* not forgetful of the great troubles of his own day, and anxious to know how often London had been burned down since his time, and how often the plague had [270] carried off its thousands. He would have to learn that, although London contains tenfold the inflammable matter that it did in 1666; though, not content with filling our rooms with woodwork and light draperies, we must needs lead inflammable and explosive gases into every corner of our streets and houses, we never allow even a street to burn down. And if he asked how this had come about, [280] we should have to explain that the improvement of natural knowledge has furnished us with dozens of machines for throwing water upon fires, any one of which would have furnished the ingenious Mr. Hooke, the first "curator and experimenter" of the Royal Society, with ample materials for discourse before half a dozen meetings of that body; and that, to say truth, except for the progress [290] of natural knowledge, we should not have been able to make even the tools by which these machines are constructed. And, further, it would be necessary to add, that although severe fires sometimes occur and inflict great damage, the loss is very generally compensated by societies, the operations of which have been rendered possible only by the progress of natural knowledge in the direction of [300] mathematics, and the accumulation of wealth in virtue of other natural knowledge.

But the plague? My Lord Brouncker's observation would not, I fear, lead him to think that Englishmen of the nineteenth century are purer in life, or more fervent in religious faith, than the generation which could produce a Boyle, an Evelyn, and a Milton. He might [310] find the mud of society at the bottom, instead of at the top, but I fear that the sum total would be as deserving of swift judgment as at the time of the Restoration. And it would be our duty to explain once more, and this time not without shame, that we have no reason to believe that it is the improvement of

our faith, nor that of our morals, which keeps the plague from our city; but, [320] again, that it is the improvement of our natural knowledge.

We have learned that pestilences will only take up their abode among those who have prepared unswept and ungarnished residences for them. Their cities must have narrow, unwatered streets, foul with accumulated garbage. Their houses must be ill-drained, ill-lighted, ill-ventilated. Their subjects must [330] be ill-washed, ill-fed, ill-clothed. The London of 1655 was such a city. The cities of the East, where plague has an enduring dwelling, are such cities. We, in later times, have learned somewhat of Nature, and partly obey her. Because of this partial improvement of our natural knowledge and of that fractional obedience, we have no plague; because that knowledge is still very imperfect [340] and that obedience yet incomplete, typhoid is our companion and cholera our visitor. But it is not presumptuous to express the belief that, when our knowledge is more complete and our obedience the expression of our knowledge, London will count her centuries of freedom from typhoid and cholera, as she now gratefully reckons her two hundred years of ignorance of that plague which swooped [350] upon her thrice in the first half of the seventeenth century.

Surely, there is nothing in these explanations which is not fully borne out by the facts? Surely, the principles involved in them are now admitted among the fixed beliefs of all thinking men? Surely, it is true that our countrymen are less subject to fire, famine, pestilence, and all the evils which result from a [360] want of command over and due anticipation of the course of Nature, than were the countrymen of Milton; and health, wealth, and well-being are more abundant with us than with them? But no less certainly is the difference due to the improvement of our knowledge of Nature, and the extent to which that improved knowledge has been incorporated with the household words of [370] men, and has supplied the springs of their daily actions.

Granting for a moment, then, the truth of that which the depreciators of natural knowledge are so fond of urging, that its improvement can only add to the resources of our material civilization; admitting it to be possible that the founders of the Royal Society themselves looked for no other reward than this, I cannot confess that I was guilty of exaggeration when I hinted, that to him who had the gift of distinguishing between prominent events and important events, the origin of a combined effort on the part of mankind to improve natural knowledge might have loomed larger than the Plague and have outshone the glare of the Fire; as a something fraught with a wealth of beneficence to mankind, in comparison with which the damage done by those ghastly evils would shrink into insignificance.

It is very certain that for every victim slain by the plague, hundreds of mankind exist and find a fair share of happiness in the world by the aid of the spinning jenny. And the great fire, at its worst, could not have burned the supply of coal, the daily working of which, in the bowels of the earth, made possible by the steam pump, gives rise to an amount of wealth to which the millions lost in old London are but as an old song.

But spinning jenny and steam pump are, after all, but toys, possessing an accidental value; and natural knowledge creates multitudes of more subtle contrivances, the praises of which do not happen to be sung because they are not directly convertible into instruments for creating wealth. When I contemplate natural knowledge squandering such gifts among men, the only appropriate comparison I can find for her is, to liken her to such a peasant woman as one sees in the Alps, striding ever upward, heavily burdened, and with mind bent only on her home; but yet without effort and without thought, knitting for her children. Now stockings are good and comfortable things, and the children will undoubtedly be much the better for them; but surely it would be short-sighted, to say the least of it, to depreciate this toiling mother as a mere

stocking-machine—a mere provider of physical comforts?

However, there are blind leaders of the blind, and not a few of them, who take this view of natural knowledge, and can see nothing in the bountiful mother of humanity but a sort of comfort-grinding machine. According to them, the improvement of natural knowledge always has been, and always must be, synonymous with no more than the improvement of the material resources and the increase of the gratifications of men.

Natural knowledge is, in their eyes, no real mother of mankind, bringing them up with kindness, and, if need be, with sternness, in the way they should go, and instructing them in all things needful for their welfare; but a sort of fairy god-mother, ready to furnish her pets with shoes of swiftness, swords of sharpness, and omnipotent Aladdin's lamps, so that they may have telegraphs to Saturn, and see the other side of the moon, and thank God they are better than their benighted ancestors.

If this talk were true, I, for one, should not greatly care to toil in the service of natural knowledge. I think I would just as soon be quietly chipping my own flint axe, after the manner of my forefathers a few thousand years back, as be troubled with the endless malady of thought which now infests us all, for such reward. But I venture to say that such views are contrary alike to reason and to fact. Those who discourse in such fashion seem to me to be so intent upon trying to see what is above Nature, or what is behind her, that they are blind to what stares them in the face in her.

I should not venture to speak thus strongly if my justification were not to be found in the simplest and most obvious facts,—if it needed more than an appeal to the most notorious truths to justify my assertion, that the improvement of natural knowledge, whatever direction it has taken, and however low the aims of those who may have commenced it—has not only conferred practical benefits on men, but, in so doing, has effected a revolution in their conceptions of the universe and of themselves, and has profoundly

altered their modes of thinking and [480 their views of right and wrong. I say that natural knowledge, seeking to satisfy natural wants, has found the ideas which can alone still spiritual cravings. I say that natural knowledge, in desiring to ascertain the laws of comfort, has been driven to discover those of conduct, and to lay the foundations of a new morality.

Let us take these points separately; [490 and first, what great ideas has natural knowledge introduced into men's minds?

I cannot but think that the foundations of all natural knowledge were laid when the reason of man first came face to face with the facts of Nature; when the savage first learned that the fingers of one hand are fewer than those of both; that it is shorter to cross a stream than to head it; that a stone stops where it is unless [500 it be moved, and that it drops from the hand which lets it go; that light and heat come and go with the sun; that sticks burn away in a fire; that plants and animals grow and die; that if he struck his fellow savage a blow he would make him angry, and perhaps get a blow in return, while if he offered him a fruit he would please him, and perhaps receive a fish in exchange. When men had acquired this much [510 knowledge, the outlines, rude though they were, of mathematics, of physics, of chemistry, of biology, of moral, economical, and political science, were sketched. Nor did the germ of religion fail when science began to bud. Listen to words which, though new, are yet three thousand years old:—

“ . . . When in heaven the stars about the moon
Look beautiful, when all the winds are laid, [520
And every height comes out, and jutting peak
And valley, and the immeasurable heavens
Break open to their highest, and all the stars
Shine, and the shepherd gladdens in his heart.”¹

If the half savage Greek could share our feelings thus far, it is irrational to doubt

¹ Need it be said that this is Tennyson's English for Homer's Greek? [Huxley]

that he went further, to find as we do, that upon that brief gladness there follows a certain sorrow,—the little light of awakened human intelligence shines so mere [530 a spark amidst the abyss of the unknown and unknowable; seems so insufficient to do more than illuminate the imperfections that cannot be remedied, the aspirations that cannot be realized, of man's own nature. But in this sadness, this consciousness of the limitation of man, this sense of an open secret which he cannot penetrate, lies the essence of all religion; and the attempt to embody it in the forms furnished by the intellect is the origin of the higher theologies.

Thus it seems impossible to imagine but that the foundations of all knowledge—secular or sacred—were laid when intelligence dawned, though the superstructure remained for long ages so slight and feeble as to be compatible with the existence of almost any general view respecting the mode of governance of the universe. [550 No doubt, from the first, there were certain phenomena which, to the rudest mind, presented a constancy of occurrence, and suggested that a fixed order ruled, at any rate, among them. I doubt if the grossest of Fetish worshippers ever imagined that a stone must have a god within it to make it fall, or that a fruit had a god within it to make it taste sweet. With regard to such matters as these, it is hardly question- [560 able that mankind from the first took strictly positive and scientific views.

But, with respect to all the less familiar occurrences which present themselves, uncultured man, no doubt, has always taken himself as the standard of comparison, as the centre and measure of the world; nor could he well avoid doing so. And finding that his apparently uncaused will has a powerful effect in giving rise to many [570 occurrences, he naturally enough ascribed other and greater events to other and greater volitions, and came to look upon the world and all that therein is, as the product of the volitions of persons like himself, but stronger, and capable of being appeased or angered, as he himself might be soothed or irritated. Through such conceptions of the plan and working of the universe all mankind have passed, [580

or are passing. And we may now consider what has been the effect of the improvement of natural knowledge on the views of men who have reached this stage, and who have begun to cultivate natural knowledge with no desire but that of "increasing God's honor and bettering man's estate."

For example, what could seem wiser, from a mere material point of view, more innocent, from a theological one, to [590 an ancient people, than that they should learn the exact succession of the seasons, as warnings for their husbandmen; or the position of the stars, as guides to their rude navigators? But what has grown out of this search for natural knowledge of so merely useful a character? You all know the reply. Astronomy,—which of all sciences has filled men's minds with general ideas of a character most foreign [600 to their daily experience, and has, more than any other, rendered it impossible for them to accept the beliefs of their fathers. Astronomy,—which tells them that this so vast and seemingly solid earth is but an atom among atoms, whirling, no man knows whither, through illimitable space; which demonstrates that what we call the peaceful heaven above us, is but that space, filled by an infinitely subtle matter [610 whose particles are seething and surging, like the waves of an angry sea; which opens up to us infinite regions where nothing is known, or ever seems to have been known, but matter and force, operating according to rigid rules; which leads us to contemplate phenomena the very nature of which demonstrates that they must have had a beginning, and that they must have an end, but the very nature of which also [620 proves that the beginning was, to our conceptions of time, infinitely remote, and that the end is as immeasurably distant.

But it is not alone those who pursue astronomy who ask for bread and receive ideas. What more harmless than the attempt to lift and distribute water by pumping it; what more absolutely and grossly utilitarian? Yet out of pumps grew the discussions about Nature's [630 abhorrence of a vacuum; and then it was discovered that Nature does not abhor a vacuum, but that air has weight; and that notion paved the way for the doc-

trine that all matter has weight, and that the force which produces weight is co-extensive with the universe,—in short, to the theory of universal gravitation and endless force. While learning how to handle gases led to the discovery of [640 oxygen, and to modern chemistry, and to the notion of the indestructibility of matter.

Again, what simpler, or more absolutely practical, than the attempt to keep the axle of a wheel from heating when the wheel turns around very fast? How useful for carters and gig drivers to know something about this; and how good were it, if any ingenious person would find out [650 the cause of such phenomena, and thence educe a general remedy for them. Such an ingenious person was Count Rumford; and he and his successors have landed us in the theory of the persistence, or indestructibility, of force. And in the infinitely minute, as in 'the infinitely great, the seekers after natural knowledge of the kinds called physical and chemical, have everywhere found a definite order and [660 succession of events which seem never to be infringed.

And how has it fared with "Physick" and Anatomy? Have the anatomist, the physiologist, or the physician, whose business it has been to devote themselves assiduously to that eminently practical and direct end, the alleviation of the sufferings of mankind,—have they been able to confine their vision more ab- [670 solutely to the strictly useful? I fear they are the worst offenders of all. For if the astronomer has set before us the infinite magnitude of space, and the practical eternity of the duration of the universe; if the physical and chemical philosophers have demonstrated the infinite minuteness of its constituent parts, and the practical eternity of matter and of force; and if both have alike pro- [680 claimed the universality of a definite and predicable order and succession of events, the workers in biology have not only accepted all these, but have added more startling theses of their own. For, as the astronomers discover in the earth no centre of the universe, but an eccentric speck, so the naturalists find man to be

no centre of the living world, but one amidst endless modifications of life; [690 and as the astronomer observes the mark of practically endless time set upon the arrangements of the solar system, so the student of life finds the records of ancient forms of existence peopling the world for ages, which, in relation to human experience, are infinite.

Furthermore, the physiologist finds life to be as dependent for its manifestation on particular molecular arrangements as [700 any physical or chemical phenomenon; and wherever he extends his researches, fixed order and unchanging causation reveal themselves, as plainly as in the rest of Nature.

Nor can I find that any other fate has awaited the germ of Religion. Arising, like all other kinds of knowledge, out of the action and interaction of man's mind, with that which is not man's mind, it has taken the intellectual coverings of [710 Fetishism or Polytheism; of Theism or Atheism; of Superstition or Rationalism. With these, and their relative merits and demerits, I have nothing to do; but this it is needful for my purpose to say, that if the religion of the present differs from that of the past, it is because the theology of the present has become more scientific than that of the past; because it has not only renounced idols of wood and [720 idols of stone, but begins to see the necessity of breaking in pieces the idols built up of books and traditions and finespun ecclesiastical cobwebs: and of cherishing the noblest and most human of man's emotions, by worship "for the most part of the silent sort" at the altar of the Unknown.

Such are a few of the new conceptions implanted in our minds by the improvement of natural knowledge. Men [730 have acquired the ideas of the practically infinite extent of the universe and of its practical eternity; they are familiar with the conception that our earth is but an infinitesimal fragment of that part of the universe which can be seen; and that, nevertheless, its duration is, as compared with our standards of time, infinite. They have further acquired the idea that man is but one of innumerable forms [740 of life now existing on the globe, and that the present existences are but the last of

an immeasurable series of predecessors. Moreover, every step they have made in natural knowledge has tended to extend and rivet in their minds the conception of a definite order of the universe—which is embodied in what are called, by an unhappy metaphor, the laws of Nature—and to narrow the range and loosen the [750 force of men's belief in spontaneity, or in changes other than such as arise out of that definite order itself.

Whether these ideas are well or ill founded is not the question. No one can deny that they exist, and have been the inevitable outgrowth of the improvement of natural knowledge. And if so, it cannot be doubted that they are changing the form of men's most cherished and [760 most important convictions.

And as regards the second point—the extent to which the improvement of natural knowledge has remodelled and altered what may be termed the intellectual ethics of men,—what are among the moral convictions most fondly held by barbarous and semi-barbarous people?

They are the convictions that authority is the soundest basis of belief; that [770 merit attaches to a readiness to believe; that the doubting disposition is a bad one, and scepticism a sin; that when good authority has pronounced what is to be believed, and faith has accepted it, reason has no further duty. There are many excellent persons who yet hold by these principles, and it is not my present business, or intention, to discuss their views. All I wish to bring clearly before your [780 minds is the unquestionable fact, that the improvement of natural knowledge is effected by methods which directly give the lie to all these convictions, and assume the exact reverse of each to be true.

The improver of natural knowledge absolutely refuses to acknowledge authority, as such. For him, scepticism is the highest of duties; blind faith the one unpardonable sin. And it cannot be [790 otherwise, for every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority, the cherishing of the keenest scepticism, the annihilation of the spirit of blind faith; and the

most ardent votary of science holds his firmest convictions, not because the men he most venerates hold them; not because their verity is testified by portents and wonders; but because his experience [800 teaches him that whenever he chooses to bring these convictions into contact with their primary source, Nature—whenever he thinks fit to test them by appealing to experiment and to observation—Nature will confirm them. The man of science has learned to believe in justification, not by faith, but by verification.

Thus, without for a moment pretending to despise the practical results of [810 improvement of natural knowledge, and its beneficial influence on material civilization, it must, I think, be admitted that the great ideas, some of which I have indicated, and the ethical spirit which I have endeavored to sketch, in the few moments which remained at my disposal, constitute the real and permanent significance of natural knowledge.

If these ideas be destined, as I be- [820 lieve they are, to be more and more firmly established as the world grows older; if that spirit be fated, as I believe it is, to extend itself into all departments of human thought, and to become co-extensive with the range of knowledge; if, as our race approaches its maturity, it discovers, as I believe it will, that there is but one kind of knowledge and but one method of acquiring it; then we, who [830 are still children, may justly feel it our highest duty to recognize the advisableness of improving natural knowledge, and so to aid ourselves and our successors in our course towards the noble goal which lies before mankind.

JOHN HENRY, CARDINAL NEWMAN
(1801-1890)

THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY

DISCOURSE VI

KNOWLEDGE VIEWED IN RELATION TO LEARNING

It were well if the English, like the Greek language, possessed some definite word to express, simply and generally, intellectual proficiency or perfection, such

as "health," as used with reference to the animal frame, and "virtue," with reference to our moral nature. I am not able to find such a term;—talent, ability, genius, belong distinctly to the raw material, which is the subject-matter, [10 not to that excellence which is the result of exercise and training. When we turn, indeed, to the particular kinds of intellectual perfection, words are forthcoming for our purpose, as, for instance, judgment, taste, and skill; yet even these belong, for the most part, to powers or habits bearing upon practice or upon art, and not to any perfect condition of the intellect, considered in itself. Wisdom, [20 again, is certainly a more comprehensive word than any other, but it has a direct relation to conduct, and to human life. Knowledge, indeed, and science, express purely intellectual ideas, but still not a state or quality of the intellect; for knowledge, in its ordinary sense, is but one of its circumstances, denoting a possession or a habit; and science has been appropriated to the subject-matter of the [30 intellect, instead of belonging in English, as it ought to do, to the intellect itself. The consequence is that, on an occasion like this, many words are necessary, in order, first, to bring out and convey what surely is no difficult idea in itself,—that of the cultivation of the intellect as an end; next, in order to recommend what surely is no unreasonable object; and lastly, to describe and make the mind realize [40 the particular perfection in which that object consists. Every one knows practically what are the constituents of health or of virtue; and every one recognizes health and virtue as ends to be pursued; it is otherwise with intellectual excellence, and this must be my excuse, if I seem to anyone to be bestowing a good deal of labor on a preliminary matter.

In default of a recognized term, I [50 have called the perfection or virtue of the intellect by the name of philosophy, philosophical knowledge, enlargement of mind, or illumination; terms which are not uncommonly given to it by writers of this day: but, whatever name we bestow on it, it is, I believe, as a matter of history, the business of a university

to make this intellectual culture its direct scope, or to employ itself in the [60 education of the intellect,—just as the work of a hospital lies in healing the sick or wounded, of a riding or fencing school, or of a gymnasium, in exercising the limbs, of an almshouse, in aiding and solacing the old, of an orphanage, in protecting innocence, of a penitentiary, in restoring the guilty. I say, a university, taken in its bare idea, and before we view it as an instrument of the [70 church, has this object and this mission; it contemplates neither moral impression nor mechanical production; it professes to exercise the mind neither in art nor in duty; its function is intellectual culture; here it may leave its scholars, and it has done its work when it has done as much as this. It educates the intellect to reason well in all matters, to reach out towards truth, and to grasp it. [80

This, I said in my foregoing discourse, was the object of a university, viewed in itself, and apart from the Catholic Church, or from the state, or from any other power which may use it; and I illustrated this in various ways. I said that the intellect must have an excellence of its own, for there was nothing which had not its specific good; that the word “educate” would not be used of intellectual cul- [90 ture, as it is used, had not the intellect had an end of its own; that, had it not such an end, there would be no meaning in calling certain intellectual exercises “liberal,” in contrast with “useful,” as is commonly done; that the very notion of a philosophical temper implied it, for it threw us back upon research and system as ends in themselves, distinct from effects and works of any kind; that a [100 philosophical scheme of knowledge, or system of sciences, could not, from the nature of the case, issue in any one definite art or pursuit, as its end; and that, on the other hand, the discovery and contemplation of truth, to which research and systematizing led, were surely sufficient ends, though nothing beyond them were added, and that they had ever been accounted sufficient by mankind. [110

Here then I take up the subject; and, having determined that the cultivation

of the intellect is an end distinct and sufficient in itself, and that, so far as words go, it is an enlargement or illumination, I proceed to inquire what this mental breath, or power, or light, or philosophy consists in. A hospital heals a broken limb or cures a fever: what does an institution effect, which professes [120 the health, not of the body, not of the soul, but of the intellect? What is this good, which in former times, as well as our own, has been found worth the notice, the appropriation, of the Catholic Church?

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I suppose the *prima-facie* view which the public at large would take of a university, considering it as a place of education, is nothing more or less than a place for acquiring a great deal of knowl- [130 edge on a great many subjects. Memory is one of the first developed of the mental faculties; a boy's business when he goes to school is to learn, that is, to store up things in his memory. For some years his intellect is little more than an instrument for taking in facts, or a receptacle for storing them; he welcomes them as fast as they come to him; he lives on what is without; he has his eyes ever about [140 him; he has a lively susceptibility of impressions; he imbibes information of every kind; and little does he make his own in a true sense of the word, living rather upon his neighbors all around him. He has opinions, religious, political and literary, and, for a boy, is very positive in them and sure about them; but he gets them from his schoolfellows, or his masters, or his parents, as the case [150 may be. Such as he is in his other relations, such also is he in his school exercises; his mind is observant, sharp, ready, retentive; he is almost passive in the acquisition of knowledge. I say this in no disparagement of the idea of a clever boy. Geography, chronology, history, language, natural history, he heaps up the matter of these studies as treasures for a future day. It is the seven [160 years of plenty with him: he gathers in by handfuls, like the Egyptians, without counting; and though, as time goes on, there is exercise for his argumentative

powers in the elements of mathematics, and for his taste in the poets and orators, still, while at school, or at least till quite the last years of his time, he acquires, and little more; and when he is leaving for the university, he is mainly the [170 creature of foreign influences and circumstances, and made up of accidents, homogeneous or not, as the case may be. Moreover, the moral habits, which are a boy's praise, encourage and assist this result; that is, diligence, assiduity, regularity, despatch, persevering application; for these are the direct conditions of acquisition, and naturally lead to it. Acquirements, again, are emphatically [180 producible, and at a moment; they are a something to show, both for master and scholar; an audience, even though ignorant themselves of the subjects of an examination, can comprehend when questions are answered and when they are not. Here again is a reason why mental culture is in the minds of men identified with the acquisition of knowledge.

The same notion possesses the [190 public mind, when it passes on from the thought of a school to that of a university: and with the best of reasons so far as this, that there is no true culture without acquirements, and that philosophy presupposes knowledge. It requires a great deal of reading, or a wide range of information, to warrant us in putting forth our opinions on any serious subject; and without such learning the most ori- [200 ginal mind may be able indeed to dazzle, to amuse, to refute, to perplex, but not to come to any useful result or any trustworthy conclusion. There are indeed persons who profess a different view of the matter, and even act upon it. Every now and then you will find a person of vigorous or fertile mind, who relies upon his own resources, despises all former authors, and gives the world, with [210 the utmost fearlessness, his views upon religion, or history, or any other popular subject. And his works may sell for a while; he may get a name in his day; but this will be all. His readers are sure to find on the long run that his doctrines are mere theories, and not the expression of facts, that they are chaff instead of bread,

and then his popularity drops as suddenly as it rose. [220

Knowledge, then, is the indispensable condition of expansion of mind, and the instrument of attaining to it; this cannot be denied; it is ever to be insisted on; I begin with it as a first principle; however, the very truth of it carries men too far, and confirms to them the notion that it is the whole of the matter. A narrow mind is thought to be that which contains little knowledge; and an enlarged [230 mind, that which holds a great deal; and what seems to put the matter beyond dispute is the fact of the great number of studies which are pursued in a university, by its very profession. Lectures are given on every kind of subject; examinations are held; prizes awarded. There are moral, metaphysical, physical professors; professors of languages, of history, of mathematics, of experimental [240 science. Lists of questions are published, wonderful for their range and depth, variety and difficulty; treatises are written, which carry upon their very face the evidence of extensive reading or multifarious information; what then is wanting for mental culture to a person of large reading and scientific attainments? what is grasp of mind but acquirement? where shall philosophical repose be found, [250 but in the consciousness and enjoyment of large intellectual possessions?

And yet this notion is, I conceive, a mistake, and my present business is to show that it is one, and that the end of a liberal education is not mere knowledge, or knowledge considered in its *matter*; and I shall best attain my object, by actually setting down some cases, which will be generally granted to be [260 instances of the process of enlightenment or enlargement of mind, and others which are not, and thus, by the comparison, you will be able to judge for yourselves, gentlemen, whether knowledge, that is, acquirement, is after all the real principle of the enlargement, or whether that principle is not rather something beyond it.

For instance, let a person, whose experience has hitherto been confined [270 to the more calm and unpretending scenery of these islands, whether here or

in England, go for the first time into parts where physical nature puts on her wilder and more awful forms, whether at home or abroad, as into mountainous districts; or let one, who has ever lived in a quiet village, go for the first time to a great metropolis,—then I suppose he will have a sensation which perhaps he [280 never had before. He has a feeling not in addition or increase of former feelings, but of something different in its nature. He will perhaps be borne forward, and find for a time that he has lost his bearings. He has made a certain progress, and he has a consciousness of mental enlargement; he does not stand where he did, he has a new center, and a range of thoughts to which he was before a [290 stranger.

Again, the view of the heavens which the telescope opens upon us, if allowed to fill and possess the mind, may almost whirl it around and make it dizzy. It brings in a flood of ideas, and is rightly called an intellectual enlargement, whatever is meant by the term.

And so again, the sight of beasts of prey and other foreign animals, their [300 strangeness, the originality (if I may use the term) of their forms and gestures and habits, and their variety and independence of each other, throw us out of ourselves into another creation, and as if under another Creator, if I may so express the temptation which may come on the mind. We seem to have new faculties, or a new exercise for our faculties, by this addition to our knowl- [310 edge; like a prisoner, who, having been accustomed to wear manacles or fetters, suddenly finds his arms and legs free.

Hence physical science generally, in all its departments, as bringing before us the exuberant riches and resources, yet the orderly course, of the universe, elevates and excites the student, and at first, I may say, almost takes away his breath, while in time it exercises a [320 tranquilizing influence upon him.

Again, the study of history is said to enlarge and enlighten the mind; and why? because, as I conceive, it gives it a power of judging of passing events, and of all events, and a conscious superiority

over them, which before it did not possess.

And in like manner, what is called seeing the world, entering into active [330 life, going into society, traveling, gaining acquaintance with the various classes of the community, coming into contact with the principles and modes of thought of various parties, interests, and races, their views, aims, habits and manners, their religious creeds and forms of worship, —gaining experience how various yet how alike men are, how low-minded, how bad, how opposed, yet how confident in [340 their opinions; all this exerts a perceptible influence upon the mind, which it is impossible to mistake, be it good or be it bad, and is popularly called its enlargement.

And then again, the first time the mind comes across the arguments and speculations of unbelievers, and feels what a novel light they cast upon what he has hitherto accounted sacred; and still more, if it gives in to them and embraces [350 them, and throws off as so much prejudice what it has hitherto held, and, as if waking from a dream, begins to realize to its imagination that there is now no such thing as law and the transgression of law, that sin is a phantom, and punishment a bugbear, that it is free to sin, free to enjoy the world and the flesh; and still further, when it does enjoy them, and reflects that it may think and hold [360 just what it will, that “the world is all before it where to choose,” and what system to build up as its own private persuasion; when this torrent of wilful thoughts rushes over and inundates it, who will deny that the fruit of the tree of knowledge, or what the mind takes for knowledge, has made it one of the gods, with a sense of expansion and elevation,—an intoxication in reality, [370 still, so far as the subjective state of the mind goes, an illumination? Hence the fanaticism of individuals or nations, who suddenly cast off their Maker. Their eyes are opened; and, like the judgment-stricken king in the tragedy, they see two suns, and a magic universe, out of which they look back upon their former state of faith and innocence with a sort of contempt and indignation, as if they [380

were then but fools, and the dupes of imposture.

On the other hand, religion has its own enlargement, and an enlargement not of tumult, but of peace. It is often remarked of uneducated persons, who have hitherto thought little of the unseen world, that, on their turning to God, looking into themselves, regulating their hearts, reforming their conduct, and [390] meditating on death and judgment, heaven and hell, they seem to become, in point of intellect, different beings from what they were. Before, they took things as they came, and thought no more of one thing than another. But now every event has a meaning; they have their own estimate of whatever happens to them; they are mindful of times and seasons, and compare the present with the [400] past; and the world, no longer dull, monotonous, unprofitable, and hopeless, is a various and complicated drama, with parts and an object, and an awful moral.

Now from these instances, to which many more might be added, it is plain, first, that the communication of knowledge certainly is either a condition or the means of that sense of enlargement, or enlightenment, of which at this [410] day we hear so much in certain quarters: this cannot be denied; but next, it is equally plain, that such communication is not the whole of the process. The enlargement consists, not merely in the passive reception into the mind of a number of ideas hitherto unknown to it, but in the mind's energetic and simultaneous action upon and towards and among those new ideas, which are rushing [420] in upon it. It is the action of a formative power, reducing to order and meaning the matter of our acquirements; it is a making the objects of our knowledge subjectively our own, or, to use a familiar word, it is a digestion of what we receive, into the substance of our previous state of thought; and without this no enlargement is said to follow. There is no enlargement, unless there be a comparison [430] of ideas one with another, as they come before the mind, and a systematizing of them. We feel our minds to be growing and expanding *then*, when we not only

learn, but refer what we learn to what we know already. It is not the mere addition to our knowledge that is the illumination; but the locomotion, the movement onwards, of that mental center, to which both what we know, and what we [440] are learning, the accumulating mass of our acquirements, gravitates. And therefore a truly great intellect, and recognized to be such by the common opinion of mankind, such as the intellect of Aristotle, or of St. Thomas, or of Newton, or of Goethe (I purposely take instances within and without the Catholic pale, when I would speak of the intellect as such), is one which takes a connected view of [450] old and new, past and present, far and near, and which has an insight into the influence of all these one on another; without which there is no whole, and no center. It possesses the knowledge, not only of things, but also of their mutual and true relations; knowledge, not merely considered as acquirement, but as philosophy.

Accordingly, when this analytical, distributive, harmonizing process is [460] away, the mind experiences no enlargement, and is not reckoned as enlightened or comprehensive, whatever it may add to its knowledge. For instance, a great memory, as I have already said, does not make a philosopher, any more than a dictionary can be called a grammar. There are men who embrace in their minds a vast multitude of ideas, but with little sensibility about their real relations [470] towards each other. These may be antiquarians, annalists, naturalists; they may be learned in the law; they may be versed in statistics; they are most useful in their own place; I should shrink from speaking disrespectfully of them; still, there is nothing in such attainments to guarantee the absence of narrowness of mind. If they are nothing more than well-read men, or men of informa- [480] tion, they have not what specially deserves the name of culture of mind, or fulfils the type of liberal education.

In like manner, we sometimes fall in with persons who have seen much of the world, and of the men who, in their day, have played a conspicuous part in it, but who generalize nothing, and have no

observation, in the true sense of the word. They abound in information [490 in detail, curious and entertaining, about men and things; and, having lived under the influence of no very clear or settled principles, religious or political, they speak of every one and every thing, only as so many phenomena, which are complete in themselves, and lead to nothing, not discussing them, or teaching any truth, or instructing the hearer, but simply talking. No one would say [500 that these persons, well informed as they are, had attained to any great culture of intellect or to philosophy.

The case is the same still more strikingly where the persons in question are beyond dispute men of inferior powers and deficient education. Perhaps they have been much in foreign countries, and they receive, in a passive, otiose, unfruitful way, the various facts which [510 are forced upon them there. Seafaring men, for example, range from one end of the earth to the other; but the multiplicity of external objects, which they have encountered, forms no symmetrical and consistent picture upon their imagination; they see the tapestry of human life, as it were on the wrong side, and it tells no story. They sleep, and they rise up, and they find themselves, now in [520 Europe, now in Asia; they see visions of great cities and wild regions; they are in the marts of commerce, or amid the islands of the South; they gaze on Pompey's Pillar, or on the Andes; and nothing which meets them carries them forward or backward, to any idea beyond itself. Nothing has a drift or relation; nothing has a history or a promise. Every thing stands by itself, and [530 comes and goes in its turn, like the shifting scenes of a show, which leave the spectator where he was. Perhaps you are near such a man on a particular occasion, and expect him to be shocked or perplexed at something which occurs; but one thing is much the same to him as another, or, if he is perplexed, it is as not knowing what to say, whether it is right to admire, or to ridicule, or to [540 disapprove, while conscious that some expression of opinion is expected from

him; for in fact he has no standard of judgment at all, and no landmarks to guide him to a conclusion. Such is mere acquisition, and, I repeat, no one would dream of calling it philosophy.

Instances such as these confirm, by the contrast, the conclusion I have already drawn from those which pre- [550 ceded them. That only is true enlargement of mind which is the power of viewing many things at once as one whole, of referring them severally to their true place in the universal system, of understanding their respective values, and determining their mutual dependence. Thus is that form of universal knowledge, of which I have on a former occasion spoken, set up in the individual in- [560 tellect, and constitutes its perfection. Possessed of this real illumination, the mind never views any part of the extended subject-matter of knowledge without recollecting that it is but a part, or without the associations which spring from this recollection. It makes everything in some sort lead to everything else; it would communicate the image of the whole to every separate por- [570 tion, till that whole becomes in imagination like a spirit, everywhere pervading and penetrating its component parts, and giving them one definite meaning. Just as our bodily organs, when mentioned, recall their function in the body, as the word "creation" suggests the Creator, and "subjects" a sovereign, so, in the mind of the philosopher, as we are abstractedly conceiving of him, [580 the elements of the physical and moral world, sciences, arts, pursuits, ranks, offices, events, opinions, individualities, are all viewed as one, with correlative functions, and as gradually by successive combinations converging, one and all, to the true center.

To have even a portion of this illuminative reason and true philosophy is the highest state to which nature can [590 aspire, in the way of intellect; it puts the mind above the influences of chance and necessity, above anxiety, suspense, unsettlement, and superstition, which is the lot of the many. Men whose minds are possessed with some one object, take

exaggerated views of its importance, are feverish in the pursuit of it, make it the measure of things which are utterly foreign to it, and are startled and [600] despond if it happens to fail them. They are ever in alarm or in transport. Those on the other hand who have no object or principle whatever to hold by, lose their way every step they take. They are thrown out, and do not know what to think or say, at every fresh juncture; they have no view of persons, or occurrences, or facts, which come suddenly upon them, and they hang upon [610] the opinion of others for want of internal resources. But the intellect, which has been disciplined to the perfection of its powers, which knows, and thinks while it knows, which has learned to leaven the dense mass of facts and events with the elastic force of reason, such an intellect cannot be partial, cannot be exclusive, cannot be impetuous, cannot be at a loss, cannot but be patient, collected, [620] and majestically calm, because it discerns the end in every beginning, the origin in every end, the law in every interruption, the limit in each delay; because it ever knows where it stands, and how its path lies from one point to another. It is the *τερπάγωνος* of the Peripatetic, and has the *nil admirari* of the Stoic,—

“Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere [630] causas,
Atque metus omnes, et inexorabile fatum
Subjicit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari.”

There are men who, when in difficulties, originate at the moment vast ideas or dazzling projects; who, under the influence of excitement, are able to cast a light, almost as if from inspiration, on a subject or course of action which comes before them; who have a sudden presence of mind equal to any emergency, ris- [640] ing with the occasion, and an undaunted magnanimous bearing, and an energy and keenness which is but made intense by opposition. This is genius, this is heroism; it is the exhibition of a natural gift, which no culture can teach, at which no institution can aim: here, on the con-

trary, we are concerned not with mere nature, but with training and teaching. That perfection of the intellect, which [650] is the result of education, and its *beau idéal*, to be imparted to individuals, in their respective measures, is the clear, calm, accurate vision and comprehension of all things, as far as the finite mind can embrace them, each in its place, and with its own characteristics upon it. It is almost prophetic from its knowledge of history; it is almost heart-searching from its knowledge of human nature; it [660] has almost supernatural charity from its freedom from littleness and prejudice; it has almost the repose of faith, because nothing can startle it; it has almost the beauty and harmony of heavenly contemplation, so intimate is it with the eternal order of things and the music of the spheres.

And now, if I may take for granted that the true and adequate end of in- [670] tellectual training and of a university is not learning or acquirement, but rather is thought or reason exercised upon knowledge, or what may be called philosophy, I shall be in a position to explain the various mistakes which at the present day beset the subject of university education.

I say then, if we would improve the intellect, first of all, we must ascend; [680] we cannot gain real knowledge on a level; we must generalize, we must reduce to method, we must have a grasp of principles, and group and shape our acquisitions by means of them. It matters not whether our field of operation be wide or limited; in every case, to command it, is to mount above it. Who has not felt the irritation of mind and impatience created by a deep, rich country, [690] visited for the first time, with winding lanes, and high hedges, and green steeps, and tangled woods, and every thing smiling indeed, but in a maze? The same feeling comes upon us in a strange city, where we have no map of its streets. Hence you hear of practised travelers, when they first come into a place, mounting some high hill or church tower, by way of reconnoitering its neighbor- [700] hood. In like manner, you must be above

your knowledge, not under it, or it will oppress you; and the more you have of it, the greater will be the load. The learning of a Salmasius or a Burman, unless you are its master, will be your tyrant. *Imperat aut servit*; if you can wield it with a strong arm, it is a great weapon; otherwise,

“Vis consili expers [710
Mole ruit sua.”

You will be overwhelmed, like Tarpeia, by the heavy wealth which you have exacted from tributary generations.

Instances abound; there are authors who are as pointless as they are inexhaustible in their literary resources. They measure knowledge by bulk, as it lies in the rude block, without symmetry, without design. How many com- [720 mentators are there on the classics, how many on Holy Scripture, from whom we rise up, wondering at the learning which has passed before us, and wondering why it passed! How many writers are there of Ecclesiastical history, such as Mosheim or Du Pin, who, breaking up their subject into details, destroy its life, and defraud us of the whole by their anxiety about the parts! The ser- [730 mons, again, of the English divines in the seventeenth century, how often are they mere repertories of miscellaneous and officious learning! Of course Catholics also may read without thinking; and in their case, equally as with Protestants, it holds good, that such knowledge is unworthy of the name, knowledge which they have not thought through, and thought out. Such readers are only [740 possessed by their knowledge, not possessed of it; nay, in matter of fact they are often even carried away by it, without any volition of their own. Recollect, the memory can tyrannize, as well as the imagination. Derangement, I believe, has been considered as a loss of control over the sequence of ideas. The mind, once set in motion, is henceforth deprived of the power of initiation, [750 and becomes the victim of a train of associations, one thought suggesting another, in the way of cause and effect, as if by a mechanical process, or some

physical necessity. No one, who has had experience of men of studious habits, but must recognize the existence of a parallel phenomenon in the case of those who have over-stimulated the memory. In such persons reason acts almost as [760 feebly and as impotently as in the madman; once fairly started on any subject whatever, they have no power of self-control; they passively endure the succession of impulses which are evolved out of the original exciting cause; they are passed on from one idea to another and go steadily forward, plodding along one line of thought in spite of the amplest concessions of the hearer, or wander- [770 ing from it in endless digression in spite of his remonstrances. Now, if, as is very certain, no one would envy the madman the glow and originality of his conceptions, why must we extol the cultivation of that intellect, which is the prey, not indeed of barren fancies but of barren facts, of random intrusions from without, though not of morbid imaginations from within? And in thus speaking, [780 I am not denying that a strong and ready memory is in itself a real treasure; I am not disparaging a well-stored mind, though it be nothing besides, provided it be sober, any more than I would despise a bookseller's shop:—it is of great value to others, even when not so to the owner. Nor am I banishing, far from it, the possessors of deep and multifarious learning from my ideal University; they adorn [790 it in the eyes of men; I do but say that they constitute no type of the results at which it aims; that it is no great gain to the intellect to have enlarged the memory at the expense of faculties which are indisputably higher.

Nor indeed am I supposing that there is any great danger, at least in this day, of over-education; the danger is on the other side. I will tell you, gentle- [800 men, what has been the practical error of the last twenty years,—not to load the memory of the student with a mass of undigested knowledge, but to force upon him so much that he has rejected all. It has been the error of distracting and enfeebling the mind by an unmeaning profusion of subjects; of implying that a smattering

in a dozen branches of study is not shallowness, which it really is, but enlargement, which it is not; of considering an acquaintance with the learned names of things and persons and the possession of clever duodecimos, and attendance on eloquent lecturers, and membership with scientific institutions, and the sight of the experiments of a platform and the specimens of a museum, that all this was not dissipation of mind, but progress. All things now are to be learned at [820 once, not first one thing, then another; not one well, but many badly. Learning is to be without exertion, without attention, without toil; without grounding, without advance, without finishing. There is to be nothing individual in it; and this, forsooth, is the wonder of the age. What the steam engine does with matter, the printing press is to do with the mind; it is to act mechanically, and the population is to be passively, almost unconsciously enlightened, by the mere multiplication and dissemination of volumes. Whether it be the school boy, or the school girl, or the youth at college, or the mechanic in the town, or the politician in the senate, all have been the victims in one way or other of this most preposterous and pernicious of delusions. Wise men have lifted up their voices in vain; [840 and at length, lest their own institutions should be outshone and should disappear in the folly of the hour, they have been obliged, as far as they could with a good conscience, to humor a spirit which they could not withstand, and make temporizing concessions at which they could not but inwardly smile.

It must not be supposed that, because I so speak, therefore I have some [850 sort of fear of the education of the people: on the contrary, the more education they have, the better, so that it is really education. Nor am I an enemy to the cheap publication of scientific and literary works, which is now in vogue: on the contrary, I consider it a great advantage, convenience, and gain; that is, to those to whom education has given a capacity for using them. Further, I consider such [860 innocent recreations as science and literature are able to furnish will be a very fit

occupation of the thoughts and the leisure of young persons, and may be made the means of keeping them from bad employments and bad companions. Moreover, as to that superficial acquaintance with chemistry, and geology, and astronomy, and political economy, and modern history, and biography, and [870 other branches of knowledge, which periodical literature and occasional lectures and scientific institutions diffuse through the community, I think it a graceful accomplishment, and a suitable, nay, in this day a necessary accomplishment, in the case of educated men. Nor, lastly, am I disparaging or discouraging the thorough acquisition of any one of these studies, or denying that, as far as it [880 goes, such thorough acquisition is a real education of the mind. All I say is, call things by their right names, and do not confuse together ideas which are essentially different. A thorough knowledge of one science and a superficial acquaintance with many, are not the same thing; a smattering of a hundred things or a memory for detail, is not a philosophical or comprehensive view. Recreations [890 are not education; accomplishments are not education. Do not say, the people must be educated, when, after all, you only mean, amused, refreshed, soothed, put into good spirits and good humor, or kept from vicious excesses. I do not say that such amusements, such occupations of mind, are not a great gain; but they are not education. You may as well call drawing and fencing education [900 as a general knowledge of botany or conchology. Stuffing birds or playing stringed instruments is an elegant pastime, and a resource to the idle, but it is not education; it does not form or cultivate the intellect. Education is a high word; it is the preparation for knowledge, and it is the imparting of knowledge in proportion to that preparation. We require intellectual eyes to know [910 withal, as bodily eyes for sight. We need both objects and organs intellectual; we cannot gain them without setting about it; we cannot gain them in our sleep, or by haphazard. The best telescope does not dispense with eyes; the printing press

or the lecture room will assist us greatly, but we must be true to ourselves, we must be parties in the work. A university is, according to the usual designation, [920 an alma mater, knowing her children one by one, not a foundry, or a mint, or a treadmill.

I protest to you, gentlemen, that if I had to choose between a so-called university, which dispensed with residence and tutorial superintendence, and gave its degrees to any person who passed an examination in a wide range of subjects, and a university which had no pro- [930 fessors or examinations at all, but merely brought a number of young men together for three or four years, and then sent them away as the University of Oxford is said to have done some sixty years since, if I were asked which of these two methods was the better discipline of the intellect,—mind, I do not say which is morally the better, for it is plain that compulsory study must be a good [940 and idleness an intolerable mischief,—but if I must determine which of the two courses was the more successful in training, molding, enlarging the mind, which sent out men the more fitted for their secular duties, which produced better public men, men of the world, men whose names would descend to posterity, I have no hesitation in giving the preference to that university which did nothing, [950 over that which exacted of its members an acquaintance with every science under the sun. And, paradox as this may seem, still if results be the test of systems, the influence of the public schools and colleges of England, in the course of the last century, at least will bear out one side of the contrast as I have drawn it. What would come, on the other hand, of the ideal systems of education which [960 have fascinated the imagination of this age, could they ever take effect, and whether they would not produce a generation frivolous, narrow-minded, and resourceless, intellectually considered, is a fair subject for debate; but so far is certain, that the universities and scholastic establishments, to which I refer, and which did little more than bring together first boys and then youths in large [970

numbers, these institutions, with miserable deformities on the side of morals, with a hollow profession of Christianity, and a heathen code of ethics,—I say, at least they can boast of a succession of heroes and statesmen, of literary men and philosophers, of men conspicuous for great natural virtues, for habits of business, for knowledge of life, for practical judgment, for cultivated tastes, for [980 accomplishments, who have made England what it is,—able to subdue the earth, able to domineer over Catholics.

How is this to be explained? I suppose as follows: When a multitude of young men, keen, open-hearted, sympathetic, and observant, as young men are, come together and freely mix with each other, they are sure to learn one from another, even if there be no one to [990 teach them; the conversation of all is a series of lectures to each, and they gain for themselves new ideas and views, fresh matter of thought, and distinct principles for judging and acting, day by day. An infant has to learn the meaning of the information which its senses convey to it, and this seems to be its employment. It fancies all that the eye presents to it to be close to it, till it actually learns [1000 the contrary, and thus by practice does it ascertain the relations and uses of those first elements of knowledge which are necessary for its animal existence. A parallel teaching is necessary for our social being, and it is secured by a large school or a college; and this effect may be fairly called in its own department an enlargement of mind. It is seeing the world on a small field with little trouble; for the [1010 pupils or students come from very different places, and with widely different notions, and there is much to generalize, much to adjust, much to eliminate; there are inter-relations to be defined, and conventional rules to be established, in the process by which the whole assemblage is molded together, and gains one tone and one character.

Let it be clearly understood, I re- [1020 peat it, that I am not taking into account moral or religious considerations; I am but saying that that youthful community will constitute a whole, it will embody a

specific idea, it will represent a doctrine, it will administer a code of conduct, and it will furnish principles of thought and action. It will give birth to a living teaching, which in course of time will take the shape of a self-perpetuating [1030] tradition, or a *genius loci*, as it is sometimes called; which haunts the home where it has been born, and which imbues and forms more or less, and one by one, every individual who is successively brought under its shadow. Thus it is that, independent of direct instruction on the part of superiors, there is a sort of self-education in the academic institutions of protestant England; a characteristic tone of thought, a recognized standard of judgment is found in them, which as developed in the individual who is submitted to it, becomes a twofold source of strength to him, both from the distinct stamp it impresses on his mind, and from the bond of union which it creates between him and others,—effects which are shared by the authorities of the place, for they themselves have [1050] been educated in it, and at all times are exposed to the influence of its ethical atmosphere. Here then is a real teaching, whatever be its standards and principles, true or false; and it at least tends towards cultivation of the intellect; it at least recognizes that knowledge is something more than a sort of passive reception of scraps and details; it is a something, and it does a something, which never will [1060] issue from the most strenuous efforts of a set of teachers, with no mutual sympathies and no intercommunion, of a set of examiners with no opinions which they dare profess, and with no common principles, who are teaching or questioning a set of youths who do not know them, and do not know each other, on a large number of subjects, different in kind, and connected by no wide philosophy, [1070] three times a week, or three times a year, or once in three years, in chill lecture rooms or on a pompous anniversary.

Nay, self-education in any shape, in the most restricted sense, is preferable to a system of teaching which, professing so much, really does so little for the mind. Shut your college gates against

the votary of knowledge, throw him back upon the searchings and the efforts [1080] of his own mind; he will gain by being spared an entrance into your babel. Few indeed there are who can dispense with the stimulus and support of instructors, or will do anything at all, if left to themselves. And fewer still (though such great minds are to be found,) who will not, from such unassisted attempts, contract a self-reliance and a self-esteem, which are not only moral evils, but [1090] serious hindrances to the attainment of truth. And next to none, perhaps, or none, who will not be reminded from time to time of the disadvantage under which they lie, by their imperfect grounding, by the breaks, deficiencies, and irregularities of their knowledge, by the eccentricity of opinion and the confusion of principle which they exhibit. They will be too often ignorant of what every [1100] one knows and takes for granted, of that multitude of small truths which fall upon the mind like dust, impalpable and ever accumulating; they may be unable to converse, they may argue perversely, they may pride themselves on their worst paradoxes or their grossest truisms, they may be full of their own mode of viewing things, unwilling to be put out of their way, slow to enter into the minds [1110] of others;—but, with these and whatever other liabilities upon their heads, they are likely to have more thought, more mind, more philosophy, more true enlargement, than those earnest but ill-used persons, who are forced to load their minds with a score of subjects against an examination, who have too much on their hands to indulge themselves in thinking or investigation, who devour [1120] premise and conclusion together with indiscriminate greediness, who hold whole sciences on faith, and commit demonstrations to memory, and who too often, as might be expected, when their period of education is passed, throw up all they have learned in disgust, having gained nothing really by their anxious labors, except perhaps the habit of application.

Yet such is the better specimen of [1130] the fruit of that ambitious system which has of late years been making way among

us; for its result on ordinary minds, and on the common run of students, is less satisfactory still; they leave their place of education simply dissipated and relaxed by the multiplicity of subjects which they have never really mastered, and so shallow as not even to know their shallowness. How much better, I [1140 say, is it for the active and thoughtful intellect, where such is to be found, to eschew the college and the university altogether, than to submit to a drudgery so ignoble, a mockery so contumelious! How much more profitable for the independent mind, after the mere rudiments of education, to range through a library at random, taking down books as they meet him, and pursuing the [1150 trains of thought which his mother wit suggests! How much healthier to wander into the fields, and there with the exiled prince to find "tongues in the trees, books in the running brooks"! How much more genuine an education is that of the poor boy in the poem—a poem, whether in conception or in execution, one of the most touching in our language—who, not in the wide world, but ranging day by day [1160 around his widowed mother's home, "a dexterous gleaner" in a narrow field, and with only such slender outfit

"As the village school and books a few Supplied,"

contrived from the beach, and the quay, and the fisher's boat, and the inn's fire-side, and the tradesman's shop, and the shepherd's walk, and the smuggler's hut, and the mossy moor, and the scream- [1170 ing gulls, and the restless waves, to fashion for himself a philosophy and a poetry of his own!

But in a large subject, I am exceeding my necessary limits. Gentlemen, I must conclude abruptly; and postpone any summing up of my argument, should that be necessary, to another day.

From the APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA

KINGSLEY AND NEWMAN

Mr. Kingsley begins then by exclaiming,—“O the chicanery, the wholesale

fraud, the vile hypocrisy, the conscience-killing tyranny of Rome! We have not far to seek for an evidence of it! There's Father Newman, to wit: one living specimen is worth a hundred dead ones. He, a priest, writing of priests, tells us that lying is never any harm.”

I interpose: “You are taking a most [10 extraordinary liberty with my name. If I have said this, tell me when and where.”

Mr. Kingsley replies: “You said it, Reverend Sir, in a sermon which you preached, when a Protestant, as Vicar of St. Mary's, and published in 1844; and I could read you a very salutary lecture on the effects which that sermon had at the time on my own opinion of you.” [20

I make answer: “Oh . . . Not, it seems, as a priest speaking of priests; but let us have the passage.”

Mr. Kingsley relaxes: “Do you know, I like your *tone*. From your *tone*, I rejoice, greatly rejoice, to be able to believe that you did not mean what you said.”

I rejoin: “*Mean* it! I maintain I never said it, whether as a Protestant or as a Catholic.” [30

Mr. Kingsley replies: “I waive that point.”

I object: “Is it possible? What? waive the main question! I either said it or I didn't. You have made a monstrous charge against me: direct, distinct, public. You are bound to prove it as directly, as distinctly, as publicly;—or to own you can't!”

“Well,” says Mr. Kingsley, “if you [40 are quite sure you did not say it, I'll take your word for it; I really will.”

My *word*! I am dumb. Somehow I thought that it was my *word* that happened to be on trial. The *word* of a Professor of lying, that he does not lie!

But Mr. Kingsley reassures me: “We are both gentlemen,” he says: “I have done as much as one English gentle- [50 man can expect from another.”

I begin to see: he thought me a gentleman at the very time that he said I taught lying on system. After all, it is not I, but Mr. Kingsley who did not mean what he said.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI
(1828-1882)

THE BLESSED DAMOZEL

The blessed damozel leaned out
From the gold bar of Heaven;
Her eyes were deeper than the depth
Of waters stilled at even;
She had three lilies in her hand, 5
And the stars in her hair were seven.

Her robe, ungirt from clasp to hem,
No wrought flowers did adorn,
But a white rose of Mary's gift,
For service meetly worn; 10
Her hair that lay along her back
Was yellow like ripe corn.

Herseemed she scarce had been a day
One of God's choristers;
The wonder was not yet quite gone
From that still look of hers; 15
Albeit, to them she left, her day
Had counted as ten years.

(To one, it is ten years of years.
. . . Yet now, and in this place,
Surely she leaned o'er me—her hair
Fell all about my face. . . .
Nothing: the autumn-fall of leaves.
The whole year sets apace.)

It was the rampart of God's house
That she was standing on;
By God built over the sheer depth
The which is Space begun;
So high, that looking downward thence 30
She scarce could see the sun.

It lies in Heaven, across the flood
Of ether, as a bridge.
Beneath, the tides of day and night
With flame and darkness ridge
The void, as low as where this earth 35
Spins like a fretful midge.

Around her, lovers, newly met
'Mid deathless love's acclaims,
Spoke evermore among themselves
Their heart-remembered names; 40
And the souls mounting up to God
Went by her like thin flames.

And still she bowed herself and stooped
Out of the circling charm;
Until her bosom must have made 45
The bar she leaned on warm,
And the lilies lay as if asleep
Along her bended arm.

From the fixed place of Heaven she saw
Time like a pulse shake fierce 50
Through all the world. Her gaze still
strove
Within the gulf to pierce
Its path; and now she spoke as when
The stars sang in their spheres.

The sun was gone now; the curled moon 55
Was like a little feather
Fluttering far down the gulf; and now
She spoke through the still weather.
Her voice was like the voice the stars
Had when they sang together. 60

(Ah sweet! Even now, in that bird's
song,
Strove not her accents there,
Fain to be hearkened? When those bells
Possessed the mid-day air,
Strove not her steps to reach my side 65
Down all the echoing stair?)

"I wish that he were come to me,
For he will come," she said.
"Have I not prayed in Heaven?—on earth,
Lord, Lord, has he not prayed? 70
Are not two prayers a perfect strength?
And shall I feel afraid?

"When round his head the aureole clings,
And he is clothed in white,
I'll take his hand and go with him 75
To the deep wells of light;
As unto a stream we will step down,
And bathe there in God's sight.

"We two will stand beside that shrine,
Occult, withheld, untrod, 80
Whose lamps are stirred continually
With prayer sent up to God;
And see our old prayers, granted, melt
Each like a little cloud.

"We two will lie i' the shadow of 85
That living mystic tree

Within whose secret growth the Dove
Is sometimes felt to be,
While every leaf that His plumes touch
Saith His Name audibly. 90

"And I myself will teach to him,
I myself, lying so,
The songs I sing here; which his voice
Shall pause in, hushed and slow,
And find some knowledge at each pause, 95
Or some new thing to know."

(Alas! We two, we two, thou say'st!
Yea, one wast thou with me
That once of old. But shall God lift
To endless unity 100
The soul whose likeness with thy soul
Was but its love for thee?)

"We two," she said, "will seek the groves
Where the lady Mary is,
With her five handmaidens, whose names
Are five sweet symphonies, 106
Cecily, Gertrude, Magdalen,
Margaret and Rosalys.

"Circlewise sit they, with bound locks
And foreheads garlanded; 110
Into the fine cloth white like flame
Weaving the golden thread,
To fashion the birth-robcs for them
Who are just born, being dead.

"He shall fear, haply, and be dumb: 115
Then will I lay my cheek
To his, and tell about our love,
Not once abashed or weak:
And the dear Mother will approve
My pride, and let me speak. 120

"Herself shall bring us, hand in hand,
To him round whom all souls
Kneel, the clear-ranged unnumbered heads
Bowed with their aureoles:
And angels meeting us shall sing 125
To their citherns and citoles.

"There will I ask of Christ the Lord
Thus much for him and me:—
Only to live as once on earth
With Love,—only to be, 130
As then awhile, for ever now
Together, I and he."

She gazed and listened and then said,
Less sad of speech than mild,— 134
"All this is when he comes." She ceased.
The light thrilled towards her, filled
With angels in strong level flight.
Her eyes prayed, and she smiled.

(I saw her smile.) But soon their path
Was vague in distant spheres: 140
And then she cast her arms along
The golden barriers,
And laid her face between her hands,
And wept. (I heard her tears.)

SISTER HELEN

"Why did you melt your waxen man,
Sister Helen?
To-day is the third since you began."
"The time was long, yet the time ran,
Little brother." 5
(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
Three days to-day, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"But if you have done your work aright,
Sister Helen,
You'll let me play, for you said I might."
"Be very still in your play to-night, 11
Little brother."
(*O mother, Mary Mother,
Third night, to-night, between Hell and
Heaven!*)

"You said it must melt ere vesper-bell, 15
Sister Helen;
If now it be molten, all is well."
"Even so,—nay, peace! you cannot tell,
Little brother." 20
(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
Oh what is this, between Hell and Heaven?*)

"Oh the waxen knave was plump to-day,
Sister Helen;
How like dead folk he has dropped away!"
"Nay now, of the dead what can you say,
Little brother?" 26
(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
What of the dead, between Hell and Heaven?*)

"See, see, the sunken pile of wood,
Sister Helen, 30
Shines through the thinned wax red as
blood!"

"Nay now, when looked you yet on blood,
Little brother?"

(O Mother, Mary Mother,
How pale she is, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Now close your eyes, for they're sick
and sore, 36

Sister Helen,
And I'll play without the gallery door."

"Aye, let me rest,—I'll lie on the floor,
Little brother." 40

(O Mother, Mary Mother,
What rest to-night between Hell and Heaven?)

"Here high up in the balcony,
Sister Helen,

The moon flies face to face with me." 45
"Aye, look and say whatever you see,

Little brother."
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
What sight to-night, between Hell and Heaven?)

"Outside it's merry in the wind's wake, 50
Sister Helen;

In the shaken trees the chill stars shake."
"Hush, heard you a horse-tread as you
spake,

Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother, 55
What sound to-night, between Hell and Heaven?)

"I hear a horse-tread, and I see,
Sister Helen,

Three horsemen that ride terribly."
"Little brother, whence come the three, 60

Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Whence should they come, between Hell and Heaven?)

"They come by the hill-verge from Boyne
Bar,

Sister Helen, 65
And one draws nigh, but two are afar."

"Look, look, do you know them who they
are,

Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Who should they be, between Hell and Heaven?) 70

"Oh, it's Keith of Eastholm rides so
fast,

Sister Helen,
For I know the white mane on the blast."

"The hour has come, has come at last,
Little brother!" 75

(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Her hour at last, between Hell and Heaven!)

"He has made a sign and called Halloo!
Sister Helen,

And he says that he would speak with
you." 80

"Oh tell him I fear the frozen dew,
Little brother."

(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Why laughs she thus, between Hell and Heaven?)

"The wind is loud, but I hear him cry, 85
Sister Helen,

That Keith of Ewern's like to die."
"And he and thou, and thou and I,

Little brother."
(O Mother, Mary Mother, 90
And they and we, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Three days ago, on his marriage-morn,
Sister Helen,

He sickened, and lies since then forlorn."
"For bridegroom's side is the bride a
thorn, 95

Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Cold bridal cheer, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Three days and nights he has lain abed,
Sister Helen, 100

And he prays in torment to be dead."
"The thing may chance, if he have prayed,

Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
If he have prayed, between Hell and Heaven!)

"But he has not ceased to cry to-day, 106
Sister Helen,

That you should take your curse away."
"My prayer was heard,—he need but
pray,

Little brother!" 110
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Shall God not hear, between Hell and Heaven?)

"But he says, till you take back your ban,
 Sister Helen,
 His soul would pass, yet never can." 115
 "Nay then, shall I slay a living man,
 Little brother?"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 A living soul, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"But he calls forever on your name, 120
 Sister Helen,
 And says that he melts before a flame."
 "My heart for his pleasure fared the same,
 Little brother."

(*O Mother, Mary Mother, 125
 Fire at the heart, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"Here's Keith of Westholm riding fast,
 Sister Helen,
 For I know the white plume on the blast."
 "The hour, the sweet hour I forecast, 130
 Little brother!"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 Is the hour sweet, between Hell and Heaven?*)

"He stops to speak, and he stills his horse,
 Sister Helen; 135
 But his words are drowned in the wind's
 course."
 "Nay hear, nay hear, you must hear per-
 force,

 Little brother!"
 (*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 What word now heard, between Hell and
 Heaven?*) 140

"Oh, he says that Keith of Ewern's cry,
 Sister Helen,
 Is ever to see you ere he die."

"In all that his soul sees, there am I,
 Little brother!" 145
 (*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 The soul's one sight, between Hell and
 Heaven!*)

"He sends a ring and a broken coin,
 Sister Helen,
 And bids you mind the banks of Boyne."
 "What else he broke will he ever join, 151
 Little brother?"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 No, never joined, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"He yields you these and craves full fain,
 Sister Helen, 156

You pardon him in his mortal pain."
 "What else he took will he give again,
 Little brother?"
 (*O Mother, Mary Mother, 160
 Not twice to give, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"He calls your name in an agony,
 Sister Helen,
 That even dead Love must weep to see."
 "Hate, born of Love, is blind as he, 165
 Little brother!"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 Love turned to hate, between Hell and
 Heaven!*)

"Oh it's Keith of Keith now that rides
 fast,

 Sister Helen, 170
 For I know the white hair on the blast."
 "The short, short hour will soon be past,
 Little brother!"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 Will soon be past, between Hell and
 Heaven!*) 175

"He looks at me and he tries to speak,
 Sister Helen,
 But oh! his voice is sad and weak!"
 "What here should the mighty Baron seek,
 Little brother?" 180

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 Is this the end, between Hell and Heaven?*)

"Oh his son still cries, if you forgive,
 Sister Helen,
 The body dies, but the soul shall live." 185
 "Fire shall forgive me as I forgive,
 Little brother!"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother,
 As she forgives, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"Oh he prays you, as his heart would
 rive, 190

 Sister Helen,
 To save his dear son's soul alive."
 "Fire cannot slay it, it shall thrive,
 Little brother!"

(*O Mother, Mary Mother, 195
 Alas, alas, between Hell and Heaven!*)

"He cries to you, kneeling in the road,
 Sister Helen,
 To go with him for the love of God!"

"The way is long to his son's abode, ²⁰⁰
 Little brother."
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
The way is long, between Hell and Heaven!)

"A lady's here, by a dark steed brought,
 Sister Helen, ²⁰⁵
 So darkly clad, I saw her not."
 "See her now or never see aught,
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
What more to see, between Hell and
Heaven?) ²¹⁰

"Her hood falls back, and the moon shines
 fair,
 Sister Helen,
 On the Lady of Ewern's golden hair."
 "Blest hour of my power and her despair,
 Little brother!" ²¹⁵
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Hour blest and banned, between Hell and
Heaven!)

"Pale, pale her cheeks, that in pride did
 glow,
 Sister Helen,
 'Neath the bridal-wreath three days ago."
 "One morn for pride and three days for
 woe, ²²¹
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Three days, three nights, between Hell and
Heaven!)

"Her clasped hands stretch from her bend-
 ing head, ²²⁵
 Sister Helen;
 With the loud wind's wail her sobs are
 wed."
 "What wedding-strains hath her bridal-
 bed,
 Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother, 230
What strain but death's, between Hell and
Heaven?)

"She may not speak, she sinks in a swoon,
 Sister Helen,—
 She lifts her lips and gasps on the moon."
 "Oh! might I but hear her soul's blithe
 tune, ²³⁵
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Her woe's dumb cry, between Hell and
Heaven!)

"They've caught her to Westholm's
 saddle-bow,
 Sister Helen, ²⁴⁰
 And her moonlit hair gleams white in its
 flow."
 "Let it turn whiter than winter snow,
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Woe-withered gold, between Hell and
Heaven!) ²⁴⁵

"O Sister Helen, you heard the bell,
 Sister Helen!
 More loud than the vesper-chime it fell."
 "No vesper-chime, but a dying knell,
 Little brother!" ²⁵⁰
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
His dying knell, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Alas! but I fear the heavy sound,
 Sister Helen;
 Is it in the sky or in the ground?" ²⁵⁵
 "Say, have they turned their horses round,
 Little brother?"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
What would she more, between Hell and
Heaven?)

"They have raised the old man from his
 knee, ²⁶⁰
 Sister Helen,
 And they ride in silence hastily."
 "More fast the naked soul doth flee,
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother, 265
The naked soul, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Flank to flank are the three steeds gone,
 Sister Helen,
 But the lady's dark steed goes alone."
 "And lonely her bridegroom's soul hath
 flown, ²⁷⁰
 Little brother."
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
The lonely ghost, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Oh the wind is sad in the iron chill,
 Sister Helen, ²⁷⁵
 And weary sad they look by the hill."
 "But he and I are sadder still,
 Little brother!"
(O Mother, Mary Mother,
Most sad of all, between Hell and Heaven!)

"See, see the wax has dropped from its place, 281

Sister Helen,
And the flames are winning up apace!"
"Yet here they burn but for a space,
Little brother!" 285
(*O Mother, Mary Mother,*
Here for a space, between Hell and Heaven!)

"Ah! what white thing at the door has crossed,

Sister Helen,
Ah! what is this that sighs in the frost?" 290
"A soul that's lost as mine is lost,
Little brother!"
(*O Mother, Mary Mother,*
Lost, lost, all lost, between Hell and Heaven!)

From THE HOUSE OF LIFE

THE SONNET

A Sonnet is a moment's monument,—
Memorial from the Soul's eternity,
To one dead deathless hour. Look that it
be,
Whether for lustral rite or dire portent,
Of its own arduous fulness reverent: 5
Carve it in ivory or in ebony,
As Day or Night may rule; and let Time
see
Its flowering crest impearled and orient.
A Sonnet is a coin: its face reveals
The soul,—its converse, to what Power
't is due:— 10
Whether for tribute to the august appeals
Of Life, or dower in Love's high retinue,
It serve; or, 'mid the dark wharf's cavernous
breath,
In Charon's palm it pay the toll to Death.

IV. LOVESIGHT

When do I see thee most, beloved one?
When in the light the spirits of mine eyes
Before thy face, their altar, solemnize
The worship of that Love through thee
made known?
Or when in the dusk hours, (we two alone,)
Close-kissed and eloquent of still replies, 6
Thy twilight-hidden glimmering visage
lies,
And my soul only sees thy soul its own?

O love, my love! if I no more should see
Thyself, nor on the earth the shadow of
thee, 10
Nor image of thine eyes in any spring,—
How then should sound upon Life's dark-
ening slope,
The ground-whirl of the perished leaves of
Hope,
The wind of Death's imperishable wing?

XIX. SILENT NOON

Your hands lie open in the long fresh
grass,—
The finger-points look through like rosy
blossoms:
Your eyes smile peace. The pasture
gleams and glooms
'Neath billowing skies that scatter and
amass.
All round our nest, far as the eye can
pass, 5
Are golden kingcup-fields with silver edge
Where the cow-parsley skirts the haw-
thorn-hedge.
'T is visible silence, still as the hour-glass.
Deep in the sun-searched growths the
dragon-fly
Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the
sky:— 10
So this winged hour is dropped to us from
above.
Oh! clasp we to our hearts, for deathless
dower,
This close-companioned inarticulate hour
When twofold silence was the song of love.

XCVII. A SUPERScription

Look in my face; my name is Might-have-
been;
I am also called No-more, Too-late, Fare-
well;
Unto thine ear I hold the dead-sea shell
Cast up thy Life's foam-fretted feet be-
tween;
Unto thine eyes the glass where that is
seen 5
Which had Life's form and Love's, but by
my spell
Is now a shaken shadow intolerable,
Of ultimate things unuttered the frail
screen.
Mark me, how still I am! But should
there dart

One moment through thy soul the soft sur-
 prise 10
 Of that winged Peace which lulls the
 breath of sighs,—
 Then shalt thou see me smile, and turn
 apart
 Thy visage to mine ambush at thy heart,
 Sleepless with cold commemorative eyes.

WILLIAM MORRIS (1834–1896)

From THE EARTHLY PARADISE

AN APOLOGY

Of Heaven or Hell I have no power to
 sing,
 I cannot ease the burden of your fears,
 Or make quick-coming death a little thing,
 Or bring again the pleasure of past years,
 Nor for my words shall ye forget your
 tears, 5
 Or hope again for aught that I can say,
 The idle singer of an empty day.

But rather, when aweary of your mirth,
 From full hearts still unsatisfied ye sigh,
 And, feeling kindly unto all the earth, 10
 Grudge every minute as it passes by,
 Made the more mindful that the sweet
 days die—
 Remember me a little then, I pray,
 The idle singer of an empty day.

The heavy trouble, the bewildering care
 That weighs us down who live and earn
 our bread, 16
 These idle verses have no power to bear;
 So let me sing of names remembered,
 Because they, living not, can ne'er be
 dead,
 Or long time take their memory quite
 away 20
 From us poor singers of an empty day.

Dreamer of dreams, born out of my due
 time,
 Why should I strive to set the crooked
 straight?
 Let it suffice me that my murmuring
 rhyme
 Beats with light wing against the ivory
 gate, 25
 Telling a tale not too importunate

To those who in the sleepy region stay,
 Lulled by the singer of an empty day.

Folk say, a wizard to a northern king
 At Christmas-tide such wondrous things
 did show, 30
 That through one window men beheld the
 spring,
 And through another saw the summer
 glow,
 And through a third the fruited vines a-
 row,
 While still, unheard, but in its wonted way,
 Piped the drear wind of that December
 day.

So with this Earthly Paradise it is,
 If ye will read aright, and pardon me,
 Who strive to build a shadowy isle of bliss
 Midmost the beating of the steely sea,
 Where tossed about all hearts of men
 must be; 40
 Whose ravening monsters mighty men
 shall slay,
 Not the poor singer of an empty day.

PROLOGUE

Forget six counties overhung with
 smoke,
 Forget the snorting steam and piston
 stroke,
 Forget the spreading of the hideous town;
 Think rather of the pack-horse on the
 down,
 And dream of London, small, and white,
 and clean, 5
 The clear Thames bordered by its gardens
 green;
 Think, that below bridge the green lapping
 waves
 Smite some few keels that bear Levantine
 staves,
 Cut from the yew wood on the burnt-up
 hill,
 And pointed jars that Greek hands toiled
 to fill, 10
 And treasured scanty spice from some far
 sea,
 Florence gold cloth, and Ypres napery,
 And cloth of Bruges, and hogsheads of
 Guienne;
 While nigh the thronged wharf Geoffrey
 Chaucer's pen

Moves over bills of lading—'mid such
times 15

Shall dwell the hollow puppets of my
rhymes.

A nameless city in a distant sea,
White as the changing walls of faërie,
Thronged with much people clad in an-
cient guise

I now am fain to set before your eyes; 20
There, leave the clear green water and
the quays,

And pass betwixt its marble palaces,
Until ye come unto the chiefest square;
A bubbling conduit is set midmost there,
And round about it now the maidens
throng, 25

With jest and laughter, and sweet broken
song,

Making but light of labor new begun
While in their vessels gleams the morning
sun.

On one side of the square a temple
stands,

Wherein the gods worshipped in ancient
lands 30

Still have their altars; a great market-place
Upon two other sides fills all the space,
And thence the busy hum of men comes
forth;

But on the cold side looking toward the
north

A pillared council-house may you behold,
Within whose porch are images of gold, 36
Gods of the nations who dwelt anciently
About the borders of the Grecian sea.

Pass now between them, push the brazen
door,

And standing on the polished marble floor
Leave all the noises of the square behind;
Most calm that reverent chamber shall
ye find, 42

Silent at first, but for the noise you made
When on the brazen door your hand you
laid

To shut it after you,—but now behold 45
The city rulers on their thrones of gold,
Clad in most fair attire, and in their hands
Long carven silver-banded ebony wands;
Then from the dais drop your eyes and
see

Soldiers and peasants standing reverently
Before those elders, round a little band 51
Who bear such arms as guard the English
land,

But battered, rent, and rusted sore, and
they,

The men themselves, are shrivelled, bent,
and gray;

And as they lean with pain upon their
spears 55

Their brows seem furrowed deep with
more than years;

For sorrow dulls their heavy sunken eyes;
Bent are they less with time than miseries.

ATALANTA'S RACE

Atalanta, daughter of King Schœneus, not
willing to lose her virgin's estate, made it a
law to all suitors that they should run a race
with her in the public place, and if they
failed to overcome her should die unre-
venged; and thus many brave men perished.
At last came Milanion, the son of Amphi-
damus, who, outrunning her with the help
of Venus, gained the virgin and wedded
her.

Through thick Arcadian woods a hunter
went,

Following the beasts up, on a fresh spring
day;

But since his horn-tipped bow, but seldom
bent,

Now at the noontide naught had happed
to slay,

Within a vale he called his hounds away, 5
Harkening the echoes of his lone voice
cling

About the cliffs and through the beech-
trees ring.

But when they ended, still awhile he stood,
And but the sweet familiar thrush could
hear,

And all the day-long noises of the wood, 10
And o'er the dry leaves of the vanished
year

His hounds' feet pattering as they drew
anear,

And heavy breathing from their heads low
hung,

To see the mighty cornel bow unstrung.

Then smiling did he turn to leave the
place, 15

But with his first step some new fleeting
thought

A shadow cast across his sunburnt face:

I think the golden net that April brought
 From some warm world his wavering soul
 had caught;
 For, sunk in vague sweet longing, did he
 go²⁰
 Betwixt the trees with doubtful steps and
 slow.

Yet howsoever slow he went, at last
 The trees grew sparser, and the wood was
 done;
 Whereon one farewell, backward look he
 cast,
 Then, turning round to see what place was
 won,²⁵
 With shaded eyes looked underneath the
 sun,
 And o'er green meads and new-turned fur-
 rows brown
 Beheld the gleaming of King Schœneus'
 town.

So thitherward he turned, and on each
 side
 The folk were busy on the teeming land, 30
 And man and maid from the brown fur-
 rows cried,
 Or midst the newly blossomed vines did
 stand,
 And as the rustic weapon pressed the hand
 Thought of the nodding of the well-filled
 ear,
 Or how the knife the heavy bunch should
 shear.³⁵

Merry it was: about him sung the birds,
 The spring flowers bloomed along the firm
 dry road,
 The sleek-skinned mothers of the sharp-
 horned herds
 Now for the barefoot milking-maidens
 lowed;
 While from the freshness of his blue abode,
 Glad his death-bearing arrows to forget, 41
 The broad sun blazed, nor scattered
 plagues as yet.

Through such fair things unto the gates
 he came,
 And found them open, as though peace
 were there;
 Wherethrough, unquestioned of his race or
 name,⁴⁵
 He entered, and along the streets 'gan fare,

Which at the first of folk were wellnigh
 bare;
 But pressing on, and going more hastily,
 Men hurrying too he 'gan at last to see.

Following the last of these, he still pressed
 on,⁵⁰
 Until an open space he came unto,
 Where wreaths of fame had oft been lost
 and won,
 For feats of strength folk there were wont
 to do.
 And now our hunter looked for something
 new,
 Because the whole wide space was bare,
 and stilled⁵⁵
 The high seats were, with eager people
 filled.

There with the others to a seat he gat,
 Whence he beheld a broidered canopy,
 'Neath which in fair array King Schœneus
 sat
 Upon his throne with councillors thereby;
 And underneath his well-wrought seat and
 high,⁶¹
 He saw a golden image of the Sun,
 A silver image of the Fleet-foot One.

A brazen altar stood beneath their feet
 Whereon a thin flame flickered in the wind;
 Nigh this a herald clad in raiment meet⁶⁶
 Made ready even now his horn to wind,
 By whom a huge man held a sword, in-
 twined
 With yellow flowers; these stood a little
 space
 From off the altar, nigh the starting-
 place.⁷⁰

And there two runners did the sign abide,
 Foot set to foot,—a young man slim and
 fair,
 Crisp-haired, well-knit, with firm limbs
 often tried
 In places where no man his strength may
 spare;
 Dainty his thin coat was, and on his hair⁷⁵
 A golden cirlet of renown he wore,
 And in his hand an olive garland bore.

But on this day with whom shall he con-
 tend?
 A maid stood by him like Diana clad

When in the woods she lists her bow to
 bend, 80
 Too fair for one to look on and be glad,
 Who scarcely yet has thirty summers had,
 If he must still behold her from afar;
 Too fair to let the world live free from
 war.

She seemed all earthly matters to for-
 get; 85
 Of all tormenting lines her face was clear,
 Her wide gray eyes upon the goal were
 set
 Calm and unmoved as though no soul
 were near.
 But her foe trembled as a man in fear,
 Nor from her loveliness one moment
 turned 90
 His anxious face with fierce desire that
 burned.

Now through the hush there broke the
 trumpet's clang
 Just as the setting sun made eventide.
 Then from light feet a spurt of dust there
 sprang,
 And swiftly were they running side by
 side; 95
 But silent did the thronging folk abide
 Until the turning-post was reached at last,
 And round about it still abreast they
 passed.

But when the people saw how close they
 ran,
 When half-way to the starting-point they
 were, 100
 A cry of joy broke forth, whereat the man
 Headed the white-foot runner, and drew
 near
 Unto the very end of all his fear;
 And scarce his straining feet the ground
 could feel,
 And bliss unhoped-for o'er his heart 'gan
 steal. 105

But midst the loud victorious shouts he
 heard
 Her footsteps drawing nearer, and the
 sound
 Of fluttering raiment, and thereat afeard
 His flushed and eager face he turned
 around,
 And even then he felt her past him bound

Fleet as the wind, but scarcely saw her
 there 111
 Till on the goal she laid her fingers fair.

There stood she breathing like a little
 child
 Amid some warlike clamor laid asleep,
 For no victorious joy her red lips
 smiled, 115
 Her cheek its wonted freshness did but
 keep;
 No glance lit up her clear gray eyes and
 deep,
 Though some divine thought softened all
 her face
 As once more rang the trumpet through
 the place.

But her late foe stopped short amidst his
 course, 120
 One moment gazed upon her piteously,
 Then with a groan his lingering feet did
 force
 To leave the spot whence he her eyes could
 see;
 And, changed like one who knows his
 time must be
 But short and bitter, without any word 125
 He knelt before the bearer of the sword;

Then high rose up the gleaming deadly
 blade,
 Bared of its flowers, and through the
 crowded place
 Was silence now, and midst of it the
 maid
 Went by the poor wretch at a gentle
 pace, 130
 And he to hers upturned his sad white
 face;
 Nor did his eyes behold another sight
 Ere on his soul there fell eternal night.

So was the pageant ended, and all folk
 Talking of this and that familiar thing
 In little groups from that sad concourse
 broke; 136
 For now the shrill bats were upon the
 wing,
 And soon dark night would slay the even-
 ing,
 And in dark gardens sang the nightingale
 Her little-headed, oft-repeated tale. 140

And with the last of all the hunter went,
 Who, wondering at the strange sight he
 had seen,
 Prayed an old man to tell him what it
 meant,
 Both why the vanquished man so slain
 had been,
 And if the maiden were an earthly queen,
 Or rather what much more she seemed to
 be, 146
 No sharer in the world's mortality.

"Stranger," said he, "I pray she soon
 may die
 Whose lovely youth has slain so many an
 one!
 King Schœneus' daughter is she verily, 150
 Who when her eyes first looked upon the
 sun
 Was fain to end her life but new begun,
 For he had vowed to leave but men alone
 Sprung from his loins when he from earth
 was gone.

"Therefore he bade one leave her in the
 wood, 155
 And let wild things deal with her as they
 might;
 But this being done, some cruel god
 thought good
 To save her beauty in the world's despite:
 Folk say that her, so delicate and white
 As now she is, a rough root-grubbing
 bear 160
 Amidst her shapeless cubs at first did rear.

"In course of time the woodfolk slew her
 nurse,
 And to their rude abode the youngling
 brought,
 And reared her up to be a kingdom's curse,
 Who, grown a woman, of no kingdom
 thought, 165
 But armed and swift, 'mid beasts destruc-
 tion wrought,
 Nor spared two shaggy centaur kings to
 slay,
 To whom her body seemed an easy prey.

"So to this city, led by fate, she came,
 Whom, known by signs, whereof I cannot
 tell, 170
 King Schœneus for his child at last did
 claim;

Nor otherwhere since that day doth she
 dwell,
 Sending too many a noble soul to hell.—
 What! thine eyes glisten? what then,
 thinkest thou
 Her shining head unto the yoke to bow? 175
 "Listen, my son, and love some other
 maid,
 For she the saffron gown will never wear,
 And on no flower-strewn couch shall she
 be laid,
 Nor shall her voice make glad a lover's ear;
 Yet if of Death thou hast not any fear, 180
 Yea, rather, if thou lovest him utterly,
 Thou still may'st woo her ere thou com'st
 to die,

"Like him that on this day thou sawest
 lie dead;
 For, fearing as I deem the sea-born one,
 The maid has vowed e'en such a man to
 wed 185
 As in the course her swift feet can out-
 run,
 But whoso fails herein, his days are done:
 He came the mightiest that was slain to-day,
 Although with him I deem she did but
 play.

"Behold, such mercy Atalanta gives 190
 To those that long to win her loveliness;
 Be wise! be sure that many a maid there
 lives
 Gentler than she, of beauty little less,
 Whose swimming eyes thy loving words
 shall bless,
 When in some garden, knee set close to
 knee, 195
 Thou sing'st the song that love may teach
 to thee."

So to the hunter spake that ancient man,
 And left him for his own home presently;
 But he turned round, and through the
 moonlight wan
 Reached the thick wood, and there 'twixt
 tree and tree 200
 Distraught he passed the long night fever-
 ishly,
 'Twixt sleep and waking, and at dawn
 arose
 To wage hot war against his speechless
 foes.

There to the hart's flank seemed his shaft
to grow,
As panting down the broad green glades he
flew, 205
There by his horn the Dryads well might
know

His thrust against the bear's heart had
been true,
And there Adonis' bane his javelin slew;
But still in vain through rough and smooth
he went,
For none the more his restlessness was
spent. 210

So wandering, he to Argive cities came,
And in the lists with valiant men he stood,
And by great deeds he won him praise and
fame,
And heaps of wealth for little-valued blood;
But none of all these things, or life, seemed
good 215
Unto his heart, where still unsatisfied
A ravenous longing warred with fear and
pride.

Therefore it happed when but a month had
gone
Since he had left King Schoeneus' city old,
In hunting-gear again, again alone 220
The forest-bordered meads did he behold,
Where still mid thoughts of August's quiv-
ering gold
Folk hoed the wheat, and clipped the vine
in trust
Of faint October's purple-foaming must.¹

And once again he passed the peaceful
gate, 225
While to his beating heart his lips did lie,
That, owning not victorious love and fate,
Said, half aloud, "And here too must I
try
To win of alien men the mastery,
And gather for my head fresh meed of
fame, 230
And cast new glory on my father's name."

In spite of that, how beat his heart when
first
Folk said to him, "And art thou come to
see
That which still makes our city's name ac-
cursed

Among all mothers for its cruelty? 235
Then know indeed that fate is good to
thee,
Because to-morrow a new luckless one
Against the white-foot maid is pledged to
run."

So on the morrow with no curious eyes,
As once he did, that piteous sight he saw,
Nor did that wonder in his heart arise 241
As toward the goal the conquering maid
'gan draw,
Nor did he gaze upon her eyes with awe,—
Too full the pain of longing filled his heart
For fear or wonder there to have a
part. 245

But O, how long the night was ere it went!
How long it was before the dawn begun
Showed to the wakening birds the sun's
intent
That not in darkness should the world be
done!
And then, and then, how long before the
sun 250
Bade silently the toilers of the earth
Get forth to fruitless cares or empty mirth!

And long it seemed that in the market-
place
He stood and saw the chaffering folk go
by,
Ere from the ivory throne King Schoeneus'
face 255
Looked down upon the murmur royally;
But then came trembling that the time
was nigh
When he midst pitying looks his love must
claim,
And jeering voices must salute his name.

But as the throng he pierced to gain the
throne, 260
His alien face distraught and anxious
told
What hopeless errand he was bound upon,
And, each to each, folk whispered to be-
hold
His godlike limbs; nay, and one woman
old,
As he went by, must pluck him by the
sleeve 265
And pray him yet that wretched love to
leave.

¹ new, unfermented wine.

For sidling up she said, "Canst thou live
twice,
Fair son? Canst thou have joyful youth
again,
That thus thou goest to the sacrifice,
Thyself the victim? Nay, then, all in
vain 270
Thy mother bore her longing and her pain,
And one more maiden on the earth must
dwell
Hopeless of joy, nor fearing death and hell.

"O fool, thou knowest not the compact
then
That with the three-formed goddess she
has made 275
To keep her from the loving lips of men,
And in no saffron gown to be arrayed,
And therewithal with glory to be paid,
And love of her the moonlit river sees
White 'gainst the shadow of the formless
trees. 280

"Come back, and I myself will pray for
thee
Unto the sea-born framer of delights,
To give thee her who on the earth may be
The fairest stirrer-up to death and fights,
To quench with hopeful days and joyous
nights 285
The flame that doth thy youthful heart
consume:
Come back, nor give thy beauty to the
tomb."

How should he listen to her earnest
speech,—
Words such as he not once or twice had
said
Unto himself, whose meaning scarce could
reach 290
The firm abode of that sad hardihead?
He turned about, and through the market-
stead
Swiftly he passed, until before the throne
In the cleared space he stood at last alone.

Then said the king, "Stranger, what dost
thou here? 295
Have any of my folk done ill to thee?
Or art thou of the forest men in fear?
Or art thou of the sad fraternity
Who still will strive my daughter's mates
to be,

Staking their lives to win to earthly bliss 300
The lonely maid, the friend of Artemis?"

"O King," he said, "thou sayest the
word indeed;
Nor will I quit the strife till I have won
My sweet delight, or death to end my need.
And know that I am called Milanion, 305
Of King Amphidamas the well-loved son;
So fear not that to thy old name, O King,
Much loss or shame my victory will
bring."

"Nay, Prince," said Schœneus, "welcome
to this land
Thou wert indeed, if thou wert here to
try 310
Thy strength 'gainst some one mighty of
his hand;
Nor would we grudge thee well-won mas-
tery.
But now, why wilt thou come to me to
die,
And at my door lay down thy luckless
head,
Swelling the band of the unhappy dead,

"Whose curses even now my heart doth
fear? 316
Lo, I am old, and know what life can be,
And what a bitter thing is death anear.
O son! be wise, and hearken unto me;
And if no other can be dear to thee, 320
At least as now, yet is the world full
wide,
And bliss in seeming hopeless hearts may
hide:

"But if thou lovest life, then all is lost."
"Nay, King," Milanion said, "thy words
are vain.
Doubt not that I have counted well the
cost. 325
But say, on what day wilt thou that I
gain
Fulfilled delight, or death to end my pain?
Right glad were I if it could be to-day,
And all my doubts at rest forever lay."

"Nay," said King Schœneus, "thus it shall
not be, 330
But rather shalt thou let a month go
by,
And weary with thy prayers for victory

What god thou know'st the kindest and
most nigh.

So doing, still perchance thou shalt not die;
And with my good-will wouldst thou have
the maid, 335
For of the equal¹ gods I grow afraid.

"And until then, O Prince, be thou my
guest,
And all these troublous things awhile for-
get."

"Nay," said he, "couldst thou give my
soul good rest,
And on mine head a sleepy garland set, 340
Then had I 'scaped the meshes of the net,
Nor shouldst thou hear from me another
word;
But now, make sharp thy fearful heading
sword.

"Yet will I do what son of man may do,
And promise all the gods may most desire,
That to myself I may at least be true; 346
And on that day my heart and limbs so
tire,
With utmost strain and measureless desire,
That, at the worst, I may but fall asleep
When in the sunlight round that sword
shall sweep." 350

He went with that, nor anywhere would
bide,
But unto Argos restlessly did wend;
And there, as one who lays all hope aside,
Because the leech has said his life must end,
Silent farewell he bade to foe and friend,
And took his way unto the restless sea, 356
For there he deemed his rest and help
might be.

Upon the shore of Argolis there stands
A temple to the goddess that he sought,
That, turned unto the lion-bearing lands,²
Fenced from the east, of cold winds hath
no thought, 361
Though to no homestead there the sheaves
are brought,
No groaning press torments the close-
clipped murk,³
Lonely the fane stands, far from all men's
work.

¹ just.² Africa.³ marc, what remains of grapes or other fruit after the
juice has been pressed out.

Pass through a close, set thick with myrtle-
trees, 365
Through the brass doors that guard the
holy place,
And, entering, hear the washing of the
seas
That twice a day rise high above the base,
And, with the southwest urging them,
embrace
The marble feet of her that standeth there,
That shrink not, naked though they be
and fair. 371

Small is the fane through which the sea-
wind sings
About Queen Venus' well-wrought image
white;
But hung around are many precious things,
The gifts of those who, longing for delight,
Have hung them there within the goddess'
sight, 376
And in return have taken at her hands
The living treasures of the Grecian lands.

And thither now has come Milanion,
And showed unto the priests' wide-open
eyes 380
Gifts fairer than all those that there have
shown,—
Silk cloths, inwrought with Indian fan-
tasies,
And bowls inscribed with sayings of the
wise
Above the deeds of foolish living things,
And mirrors fit to be the gifts of kings. 385

And now before the Sea-born One he
stands,
By the sweet veiling smoke made dim and
soft;
And while the incense trickles from his
hands,
And while the odorous smoke-wreaths
hang aloft,
Thus doth he pray to her: "O Thou, who
oft 390
Hast holpen man and maid in their dis-
tress,
Despise me not for this my wretchedness!"

"O goddess, among us who dwell below,
Kings and great men, great for a little
while,
Have pity on the lowly heads that bow,

Nor hate the hearts that love them without guile; 396
Wilt thou be worse than these, and is thy smile

A vain device of him who set thee here,
An empty dream of some artificer?

"O great one, some men love, and are ashamed; 400

Some men are weary of the bonds of love;
Yea, and by some men lightly art thou blamed,

That from thy toils their lives they cannot move,
And 'mid the ranks of men their manhood prove.

Alas! O goddess, if thou slayest me 405
What new immortal can I serve but thee?

"Think then, will it bring honor to thy head

If folk say, 'Everything aside he cast,
And to all fame and honor was he dead,
And to his one hope now is dead at last,
Since all unholpen he is gone and past: 411
Ah! the gods love not man, for certainly
He to his helper did not cease to cry.'

"Nay, but thou wilt help: they who died before

Not single-hearted, as I deem, came here;
Therefore unthanked they laid their gifts before 416

Thy stainless feet, still shivering with their fear,

Lest in their eyes their true thought might appear,

Who sought to be the lords of that fair town,

Dreaded of men and winners of renown. 420

"O Queen, thou knowest I pray not for this:

Oh, set us down together in some place
Where not a voice can break our heaven of bliss,

Where naught but rocks and I can see her face,

Softening beneath the marvel of thy grace, 425

Where not a foot our vanished steps can track,—

The golden age, the golden age come back!

"O fairest, hear me now, who do thy will,
Plead for thy rebel that she be not slain,
But live and love and be thy servant still: 430

Ah! give her joy and take away my pain,
And thus two long-enduring servants gain.

An easy thing this is to do for me,
What need of my vain words to weary thee?

"But none the less this place will I not leave 435

Until I needs must go my death to meet,
Or at thy hands some happy sign receive

That in great joy we twain may one day greet

Thy presence here and kiss thy silver feet,
Such as we deem thee, fair beyond all words, 440
Victorious o'er our servants and our lords."

Then from the altar back a space he drew,
But from the Queen turned not his face away,

But 'gainst a pillar leaned, until the blue
That arched the sky, at ending of the day,
Was turned to ruddy gold and changing gray, 446

And clear, but low, the nigh-ebbed windless sea

In the still evening murmured ceaselessly.

And there he stood when all the sun was down;

Nor had he moved when the dim golden light, 450

Like the far luster of a godlike town,
Had left the world to seeming hopeless night;

Nor would he move the more when wan moonlight

Streamed through the pillars for a little while,

And lighted up the white Queen's changeless smile. 455

Naught noted he the shallow flowing sea,
As step by step it set the wrack¹ a-swim;
The yellow torchlight nothing noted he
Wherein with fluttering gown and half-bared limb

¹ sea-weed cast ashore by the waves.

The temple damsels sung their midnight
hymn; 460
And naught the doubled stillness of the
fane
When they were gone and all was hushed
again.

But when the waves had touched the
marble base,
And steps the fish swim over twice a day,
The dawn beheld him sunken in his
place 465
Upon the floor; and sleeping there he lay,
Not heeding aught the little jets of spray
The roughened sea brought nigh, across
him cast,
For as one dead all thought from him had
passed.

Yet long before the sun had showed his
head, 470
Long ere the varied hangings on the
wall
Had gained once more their blue and green
and red,
He rose as one some well-known sign doth
call
When war upon the city's gates doth fall,
And scarce like one fresh risen out of
sleep, 475
He 'gan again his broken watch to keep.

Then he turned round; not for the sea-
gull's cry
That wheeled above the temple in his
flight,
Not for the fresh south-wind that lovingly
Breathed on the new-born day and dying
night, 480
But some strange hope 'twixt fear and
great delight
Drew round his face, now flushed, now
pale and wan,
And still constrained his eyes the sea to
scan.

Now a faint light lit up the southern
sky,—
Not sun or moon, for all the world was
gray, 485
But this a bright cloud seemed, that drew
anigh,
Lighting the dull waves that beneath it lay
As toward the temple still it took its way,

And still grew greater, till Milanion
Saw naught for dazzling light that round
him shone. 490

But as he staggered with his arms out-
spread,
Delicious unnamed odors breathed around;
For languid happiness he bowed his head,
And with wet eyes sank down upon the
ground,
Nor wished for aught, nor any dream he
found 495
To give him reason for that happiness,
Or make him ask more knowledge of his
bliss.

At last his eyes were cleared, and he could
see
Through happy tears the goddess face to
face
With that faint image of divinity, 500
Whose well-wrought smile and dainty
changeless grace
Until that morn so gladdened all the place;
Then he unwitting cried aloud her name,
And covered up his eyes for fear and
shame.

But through the stillness he her voice
could hear 505
Piercing his heart with joy scarce bear-
able,
That said, "Milanion, wherefore dost
thou fear?
I am not hard to those who love me well;
List to what I a second time will tell,
And thou mayest hear perchance, and
live to save 510
The cruel maiden from a loveless grave.

"See, by my feet three golden apples lie,—
Such fruit among the heavy roses falls,
Such fruit my watchful damsels carefully
Store up within the best loved of my
walls, 515
Ancient Damascus, where the lover calls
Above my unseen head, and faint and
light
The rose-leaves flutter round me in the
night.

"And note that these are not alone most
fair
With heavenly gold, but longing strange
they bring 520
Unto the hearts of men, who will not care,

Beholding these, for any once-loved thing
Till round the shining sides their fingers
cling.

And thou shalt see thy well-girt swiftfoot
maid

By sight of these amid her glory stayed.

"For bearing these within a scrip with
thee, 526

When first she heads thee from the starting-
place

Cast down the first one for her eyes to see,
And when she turns aside make on apace,
And if again she heads thee in the race
Spare not the other two to cast aside 531
If she not long enough behind will bide.

"Farewell, and when has come the happy
time

That she Diana's raiment must unbind,
And all the world seems blessed with
Saturn's clime, 535

And thou with eager arms about her
twined

Beholdest first her gray eyes growing
kind,

Surely, O trembler, thou shalt scarcely
then

Forget the Helper of unhappy men."

Milanion raised his head at this last
word, 540

For now so soft and kind she seemed to be
No longer of her godhead was he feared;
Too late he looked, for nothing could he
see

But the white image glimmering doubtfully
In the departing twilight cold and gray,
And those three apples on the steps that
lay. 546

These then he caught up, quivering with
delight,

Yet fearful lest it all might be a dream,
And though aweary with the watchful
night,

And sleepless nights of longing, still did
deem 550

He could not sleep; but yet the first sun-
beam

That smote the fane across the heaving
deep

Shone on him laid in calm untroubled
sleep.

But little ere the noontide did he rise,
And why he felt so happy scarce could
tell 555

Until the gleaming apples met his eyes.
Then, leaving the fair place where this
befell,

Oft he looked back as one who loved it
well,

Then homeward to the haunts of men 'gan
wend

To bring all things unto a happy end. 560

Now has the lingering month at last gone
by,

Again are all folk around the running-
place.

Nor other seems the dismal pageantry
Than heretofore, but that another face
Looks o'er the smooth course ready for
the race, 565

For now, beheld of all, Milanion
Stands on the spot he twice has looked
upon.

But yet—what change is this that holds
the maid?

Does she indeed see in his glittering eye
More than disdain of the sharp shearing
blade, 570

Some happy hope of help and victory?
The others seemed to say, "We come to
die;

Look down upon us for a little while,
That, dead, we may bethink us of thy
smile."

But he—what look of mastery was this 575
He cast on her? Why were his lips so red?

Why was his face so flushed with happi-
ness?

So looks not one who deems himself but
dead,

E'en if to death he bows a willing head;
So rather looks a god well pleased to find
Some earthly damsel fashioned to his
mind. 581

Why must she drop her lids before his gaze,
And even as she casts adown her eyes

Redden to note his eager glance of praise,
And wish that she were clad in other
guise? 585

Why must the memory to her heart arise

Of things unnoticed when they first were
heard,
Some lover's song, some answering maid-
en's word?

What makes these longings, vague, with-
out a name,
And this vain pity never felt before, 590
This sudden languor, this contempt of
fame,

This tender sorrow for the time past o'er,
These doubts that grow each minute more
and more?

Why does she tremble as the time grows
near,
And weak defeat and woful victory fear?

But while she seemed to hear her beating
heart, 596
Above their heads the trumpet blast
rang out,
And forth they sprang; and she must play
her part.

Then flew her white feet, knowing not a
doubt,
Though, slackening once, she turned her
head about, 600
But then she cried aloud and faster fled
Than e'er before, and all men deemed him
dead.

But with no sound he raised aloft his hand,
And thence what seemed a ray of light
there flew
And past the maid rolled on along the
sand; 605
Then trembling she her feet together
drew,
And in her heart a strong desire there
grew
To have the toy: some god she thought
had given
That gift to her, to make of earth a heaven.

Then from the course with eager steps she
ran, 610
And in her odorous bosom laid the gold.
But when she turned again, the great-
limbed man
Now well ahead she failed not to behold,
And, mindful of her glory waxing cold,
Sprang up and followed him in hot pursuit,
Though with one hand she touched the
golden fruit. 616

Note, too, the bow that she was wont to
bear

She laid aside to grasp the glittering prize,
And o'er her shoulder from the quiver fair
Three arrows fell and lay before her eyes
Unnoticed, as amidst the people's cries 621
She sprang to head the strong Milanion,
Who now the turning-post had wellnigh
won.

But as he set his mighty hand on it,
White fingers underneath his own were laid,
And white limbs from his dazzled eyes did
flit; 626
Then he the second fruit cast by the maid,
But she ran on awhile, then as afraid
Wavered and stopped, and turned and
made no stay
Until the globe with its bright fellow lay.

Then, as a troubled glance she cast
around, 631
Now far ahead the Argive could she see,
And in her garment's hem one hand she
wound
To keep the double prize, and strenuously
Sped o'er the course, and little doubt had
she 635
To win the day, though now but scanty
space
Was left betwixt him and the winning-
place.

Short was the way unto such wingèd feet;
Quickly she gained upon him, till at
last
He turned about her eager eyes to meet,
And from his hand the third fair apple
cast. 641
She wavered not, but turned and ran so
fast
After the prize that should her bliss fulfil,
That in her hand it lay ere it was still.

Nor did she rest, but turned about to win
Once more an unblest woful victory— 646
And yet—and yet—why does her breath
begin
To fail her, and her feet drag heavily?
Why fails she now to see if far or nigh
The goal is? Why do her gray eyes grow
dim? 650
Why do these tremors run through every
limb?

She spreads her arms abroad some stay
to find,
Else must she fall, indeed, and findeth this,
A strong man's arms about her body
twined. 654

Nor may she shudder now to feel his kiss,
So wrapped she is in new unbroken bliss;
Made happy that the foe the prize hath
won,
She weeps glad tears for all her glory done.

Shatter the trumpet, hew adown the posts!
Upon the brazen altar break the sword, 660
And scatter incense to appease the ghosts
Of those who died here by their own award.
Bring forth the image of the mighty Lord,
And her who unseen o'er the runners hung,
And did a deed forever to be sung. 665

Here are the gathered folk, make no delay;
Open King Schœneus' well-filled treasury,
Bring out the gifts long hid from light of
day,—

The golden bowls o'erwrought with
imagery,
Gold chains, and unguents brought from
over sea, 670
The saffron gown the old Phœnician
brought,
Within the temple of the goddess wrought.

O ye, O damsels, who shall never see
Her, that Love's servant bringeth now to
you,

Returning from another victory, 675
In some cool bower do all that now is due!
Since she in token of her service new
Shall give to Venus offerings rich enow,—
Her maiden zone, her arrows, and her bow.

THE HAYSTACK IN THE FLOODS

Had she come all the way for this,
To part at last without a kiss?
Yea, had she borne the dirt and rain
That her own eyes might see him slain
Beside the haystack in the floods? 5

Along the dripping leafless woods,
The stirrup touching either shoe,
She rode astride as troopers do;
With kirtle kilted to her knee,

To which the mud splashed wretchedly; 10
And the wet dripped from every tree
Upon her head and heavy hair,
And on her eyelids broad and fair;
The tears and rain ran down her face.

By fits and starts they rode apace, 15
And very often was his place
Far off from her; he had to ride
Ahead, to see what might betide
When the roads crossed; and sometimes,
when

There rose a murmuring from his men, 20
Had to turn back with promises;
Ah me! she had but little ease;
And often for pure doubt and dread
She sobbed, made giddy in the head
By the swift riding; while, for cold, 25
Her slender fingers scarce could hold
The wet reins; yea, and scarcely, too,
She felt the foot within her shoe
Against the stirrup: all for this,
To part at last without a kiss 30
Beside the haystack in the floods.

For when they neared that old soaked hay,
They saw across the only way
That Judas, Godmar, and the three
Red running lions dismally 35
Grinned from his pennon, under which
In one straight line along the ditch,
They counted thirty heads.

So then,
While Robert turned round to his men,
She saw at once the wretched end, 40
And, stooping down, tried hard to rend
Her coif the wrong way from her head,
And hid her eyes; while Robert said:
"Nay, love, 'tis scarcely two to one;
At Poitiers where we made them run 45
So fast—why, sweet my love, good cheer,
The Gascon frontier is so near,
Nought after us."

But, "O," she said,
"My God! my God! I have to tread
The long way back without you; then 50
The court at Paris; those six men;
The gratings of the Chatelet;
The swift Seine on some rainy day
Like this, and people standing by,
And laughing, while my weak hands try 55
To recollect how strong men swim.

All this, or else a life with him,
For which I should be damned at last;
Would God that this next hour were past!"

He answered not, but cried his cry, 60
"St. George for Marny!" cheerily;
And laid his hand upon her rein.
Alas! no man of all his train
Gave back that cheery cry again;
And, while for rage his thumb beat fast 65
Upon his sword-hilt, some one cast
About his neck a kerchief long,
And bound him.

Then they went along
To Godmar; who said: "Now, Jehane,
Your lover's life is on the wane 70
So fast, that, if this very hour
You yield not as my paramour,
He will not see the rain leave off—
Nay, keep your tongue from gibe and scoff,
Sir Robert, or I slay you now." 75

She laid her hand upon her brow,
Then gazed upon the palm, as though
She thought her forehead bled, and—
"No,"

She said, and turned her head away,
As there were nothing else to say, 80
And everything were settled: red
Grew Godmar's face from chin to head:
"Jehane, on yonder hill there stands
My castle, guarding well my lands:
What hinders me from taking you, 85
And doing that I list to do
To your fair wilful body, while
Your knight lies dead?"

A wicked smile
Wrinkled her face, her lips grew thin,
A long way out she thrust her chin: 90
"You know that I should strangle you
While you were sleeping; or bite through
Your throat, by God's help—ah!" she said,
"Lord Jesus, pity your poor maid!
For in such wise they hem me in, 95
I cannot choose but sin and sin,
Whatever happens: yet I think
They could not make me eat or drink,
And so should I just reach my rest."
"Nay, if you do not my behest, 100
O Jehane! though I love you well,"
Said Godmar, "would I fail to tell
All that I know?" "Foul lies," she said.

"Eh! lies, my Jehane? by God's head,
At Jarris folks would deem them true! 105
Do you know, Jehane, they cry for you:
'Jehane the brown! Jehane the brown!
Give us Jehane to burn or drown!'—
Eh—gag me Robert!—sweet my friend,
This were indeed a piteous end 110
For those long fingers, and long feet,
And long neck, and smooth shoulders
sweet;
An end that few men would forget
That saw it—So, an hour yet:
Consider, Jehane, which to take 115
Of life or death!"

So, scarce awake,
Dismounting, did she leave that place,
And totter some yards: with her face
Turned upward to the sky she lay,
Her head on a wet heap of hay, 120
And fell asleep: and while she slept,
And did not dream, the minutes crept
Round to the twelve again; but she,
Being waked at last, sighed quietly,
And strangely childlike came, and said: 125
"I will not." Straightway Godmar's head,
As though it hung on strong wires, turned
Most sharply round, and his face burned.

For Robert—both his eyes were dry,
He could not weep, but gloomily 130
He seemed to watch the rain; yea, too,
His lips were firm; he tried once more
To touch her lips; she reached out, sore
And vain desire so tortured them,
The poor gray lips, and now the hem 135
Of his sleeve brushed them.

With a start
Up Godmar rose, thrust them apart;
From Robert's throat he loosed the bands
Of silk and mail; with empty hands
Held out, she stood and gazed, and saw, 140
The long bright blade without a flaw
Glide out from Godmar's sheath, his hand
In Robert's hair; she saw him bend
Back Robert's head; she saw him send
The thin steel down; the blow told well, 145
Right backward the knight Robert fell,
And moaned as dogs do, being half dead,
Unwitting, as I deem: so then
Godmar turned grinning to his men,
Who ran, some five or six, and beat 150
His head to pieces at their feet.

Then Godmar turned again and said:
 "So, Jehane, the first fitte is read!
 Take note, my lady, that your way
 Lies backward to the Chatelet!" 155
 She shook her head and gazed awhile
 At her cold hands with a rueful smile,
 As though this thing had made her mad.

This was the parting that they had
 Beside the haystack in the floods. 160

WALTER HORATIO PATER
 (1839-1894)

STYLE

Since all progress of mind consists for the most part in differentiation, in the resolution of an obscure and complex object into its component aspects, it is surely the stupidest of losses to confuse things which right reason has put asunder, to lose the sense of achieved distinctions, the distinction between poetry and prose, for instance, or, to speak more exactly, between the laws and characteristic excellences of verse and prose composition. On the other hand, those who have dwelt most emphatically on the distinction between prose and verse, prose and poetry, may sometimes have been tempted to limit the proper functions of prose too narrowly; and this again is at least false economy, as being, in effect, the renunciation of a certain means or faculty, in a world where [20 after all we must needs make the most of things. Critical efforts to limit art *a priori*, by anticipations regarding the natural incapacity of the material with which this or that artist works, as the sculptor with solid form, or the prose-writer with the ordinary language of men, are always liable to be discredited by the facts of artistic production; and while prose is actually found to be a [30 colored thing with Bacon, picturesque with Livy and Carlyle, musical with Cicero and Newman, mystical and intimate with Plato and Michelet and Sir Thomas Browne, exalted or florid, it may be, with Milton and Taylor, it will be useless to protest that it can be nothing at all, except something very tamely and

narrowly confined to mainly practical ends—a kind of "good round-hand;" [40 as useless as the protest that poetry might not touch prosaic subjects as with Wordsworth, or an abstruse matter as with Browning, or treat contemporary life nobly as with Tennyson. In subordination to one essential beauty in all good literary style, in all literature as a fine art, as there are many beauties of poetry so the beauties of prose are many, and it is the business of criticism to [50 estimate them as such; as it is good in the criticism of verse to look for those hard, logical and quasi-prosaic excellences which that too has, or needs. To find in the poem, amid the flowers, the allusions, the mixed perspectives, of *Lycidas* for instance, the thought, the logical structure:—how wholesome! how delightful! as to identify in prose what we call the poetry, the imaginative [60 power, not treating it as out of place and a kind of vagrant intruder, but by way of an estimate of its rights, that is, of its achieved powers, there.

Dryden, with the characteristic instinct of his age, loved to emphasize the distinction between poetry and prose, the protest against their confusion with each other coming with somewhat diminished effect from one whose poetry was so [70 prosaic. In truth, his sense of prosaic excellence affected his verse rather than his prose, which is not only fervid, richly figured, poetic, as we say, but vitiated, all unconsciously, by many a scanning line. Setting up correctness, that humble merit of prose, as the central literary excellence, he is really a less correct writer than he may seem, still with an imperfect mastery of the relative pro- [80 noun. It might have been foreseen that, in the rotations of mind, the province of poetry in prose would find its assertor; and, a century after Dryden, amid very different intellectual needs, and with the need therefore of great modifications in literary form, the range of the poetic force in literature was effectively enlarged by Wordsworth. The true distinction between prose and poetry he [90 regarded as the almost technical or accidental one of the absence or presence

of metrical beauty, or, say! metrical restraint; and for him the opposition came to be between verse and prose of course; but, as the essential dichotomy in this matter, between imaginative and unimaginative writing, parallel to De Quincey's distinction between "the literature of power and the literature of knowledge," in the former of which the composer gives us not fact, but his peculiar sense of fact, whether past or present.

Dismissing then, under sanction of Wordsworth, that harsher opposition of poetry to prose, as savoring in fact of the arbitrary psychology of the last century, and with it the prejudice that there can be but one only beauty of prose style, I propose here to point out certain qualities of all literature as a fine art, which, if they apply to the literature of fact, apply still more to the literature of the imaginative sense of fact, while they apply indifferently to verse and prose, so far as either is really imaginative—certain conditions of true art in both alike, which conditions may also contain in them the secret of the proper discrimination and guardianship of the peculiar excellences of either.

The line between fact and something quite different from external fact is, indeed, hard to draw. In Pascal, for instance, in the persuasive writers generally, how difficult to define the point where, from time to time, argument which, if it is to be worth anything at all, must consist of facts or groups of facts, becomes a pleading—a theorem no longer, but essentially an appeal to the reader to catch the writer's spirit, to think with him, if one can or will—an expression no longer of fact but of his sense of it, his peculiar intuition of a world prospective, or discerned below the faulty conditions of the present, in either case changed somewhat from the actual world. In science, on the other hand, in history so far as it conforms to scientific rule, we have a literary domain where the imagination may be thought to be always an intruder. And as, in all science, the functions of literature reduce themselves eventually to the transcribing of fact, so all the excel-

lences of literary form in regard to science are reducible to various kinds of painstaking; this good quality being involved in all "skilled work" whatever, in the drafting of an act of parliament, as in sewing. Yet here again, the writer's sense of fact, in history especially, and in all those complex subjects which do but lie on the borders of science, will still take the place of fact, in various degrees. Your historian, for instance, with absolutely truthful intention, amid the multitude of facts presented to him must needs select, and in selecting assert something of his own humor, something that comes not of the world without but of a vision within. So Gibbon moulds his unwieldy material to a preconceived view. Livy, Tacitus, Michelet, moving full of poignant sensibility amid the records of the past, each, after his own sense, modifies—who can tell where and to what degree?—and becomes something else than a transcriber; each, as he thus modifies, passing into the domain of art proper. For just in proportion as the writer's aim, consciously or unconsciously, comes to be the transcribing, not of the world, not of mere fact, but of his sense of it, he becomes an artist, his work *fine* art; and good art (as I hope ultimately to show) in proportion to the truth of his presentment of that sense; as in those humbler or plainer functions of literature also, truth—truth to bare fact, there—is the essence of such artistic quality as they may have. Truth! there can be no merit, no craft at all, without that. And further, all beauty is in the long run only *fineness* of truth, or what we call expression, the finer accommodation of speech to that vision within.

—The transcript of his sense of fact rather than the fact, as being preferable, pleasanter, more beautiful to the writer himself. In literature, as in every other product of human skill, in the moulding of a bell or a platter for instance, wherever this sense asserts itself, wherever the producer so modifies his work as, over and above its primary use or intention, to make it pleasing (to himself, of course, in the first instance) there,

"fine" as opposed to merely serviceable art, exists. Literary art, that is, like all art which is in any way imitative or reproductive of fact—form, or color, or incident—is the representation of such fact as connected with soul, of a specific personality, in its preferences, its volition and power.

Such is the matter of imaginative or artistic literature—this transcript, not [210 of mere fact, but of fact in its infinite variety, as modified by human preference in all its infinitely varied forms. It will be good literary art not because it is brilliant or sober, or rich, or impulsive, or severe, but just in proportion as its representation of that sense, that soul-fact, is true, verse being only one department of such literature, and imaginative prose, it may be thought, [220 being the special art of the modern world. That imaginative prose should be the special and opportune art of the modern world results from two important facts about the latter: first, the chaotic variety and complexity of its interests, making the intellectual issue, the really master currents of the present time incalculable—a condition of mind little susceptible of the restraint proper to [230 verse form, so that the most characteristic verse of the nineteenth century has been lawless verse; and secondly, an all-pervading naturalism, a curiosity about everything whatever as it really is, involving a certain humility of attitude, cognate to what must, after all, be the less ambitious form of literature. And prose thus asserting itself as the special and privileged artistic faculty of the [240 present day, will be, however critics may try to narrow its scope, as varied in its excellence as humanity itself reflecting on the facts of its latest experience—an instrument of many stops, meditative, observant, descriptive, eloquent, analytic, plaintive, fervid. Its beauties will be not exclusively "pedestrian:" it will exert, in due measure, all the varied charms of poetry, down to the rhythm which, [250 as in Cicero, or Michelet, or Newman, at their best, gives its musical value to every syllable.

The literary artist is of necessity a

scholar, and in what he proposes to do will have in mind, first of all, the scholar and the scholarly conscience—the male conscience in this matter, as we must think it, under a system of education which still to so large an extent limits [260 real scholarship to men. In his self-criticism, he supposes always that sort of reader who will go (full of eyes) warily, considerably, though without consideration for him, over the ground which the female conscience traverses so lightly, so amiably. For the material in which he works is no more a creation of his own than the sculptor's marble. Product of a myriad various minds and contend- [270 ing tongues, compact of obscure and minute association, a language has its own abundant and often recondite laws, in the habitual and summary recognition of which scholarship consists. A writer, full of a matter he is before all things anxious to express, may think of those laws, the limitations of vocabulary, structure, and the like, as a restriction, but if a real artist, will find in them an [280 opportunity. His punctilious observance of the proprieties of his medium will diffuse through all he writes a general air of sensibility, of refined usage. *Exclusiones debite naturae*—the exclusions, or rejections, which nature demands—we know how large a part these play, according to Bacon, in the science of nature. In a somewhat changed sense, we might say that the art of the [290 scholar is summed up in the observance of those rejections demanded by the nature of his medium, the material he must use. Alive to the value of an atmosphere in which every term finds its utmost degree of expression, and with all the jealousy of a lover of words, he will resist a constant tendency on the part of the majority of those who use them to efface the distinctions of language, the [300 facility of writers often reinforcing in this respect the work of the vulgar. He will feel the obligation not of the laws only, but of those affinities, avoidances, those mere preferences, of his language, which through the associations of literary history have become a part of its nature, prescribing the rejection of many a

neology, many a license, many a gipsy phrase which might present itself as [310 actually expressive. His appeal, again, is to the scholar, who has great experience in literature, and will show no favor to short-cuts, or hackneyed illustration, or an affectation of learning designed for the unlearned. Hence a contention, a sense of self-restraint and renunciation, having for the susceptible reader the effect of a challenge for minute consideration; the attention of the writer, in every [320 minutest detail, being a pledge that it is worth the reader's while to be attentive too, that the writer is dealing scrupulously with his instrument, and therefore, indirectly, with the reader himself also, that he has the science of the instrument he plays on, perhaps, after all, with a freedom which in such case will be the freedom of a master.

For meanwhile, braced only by [330 those restraints, he is really vindicating his liberty in the making of a vocabulary, an entire system of composition, for himself, his own true manner; and when we speak of the manner of a true master we mean what is essential in his art. Pedantry being only the scholarship of *le cuistre* (we have no English equivalent), he is no pedant, and does but show his intelligence of the rules of lan- [340 guage in his freedoms with it, addition or expansion, which like the spontaneities of manner in a well-bred person will still further illustrate good taste.—The right vocabulary! Translators have not invariably seen how all-important that is in the work of translation, driving for the most part at idiom or construction; whereas, if the original be first-rate, one's care should be with its elemen- [350 tary particles, Plato, for instance, being often reproducible by an exact following, with no variation in structure, of word after word, as the pencil follows a drawing under tracing-paper, so only each word or syllable be not of false color, to change my illustration a little.

Well! that is because any writer worth translating at all has winnowed and searched through his vocabulary, is [360 conscious of the words he would select in systematic reading of a dictionary, and

still more of the words he would reject were the dictionary other than Johnson's; and doing this with his peculiar sense of the world ever in view, in search of an instrument for the adequate expression of that, he begets a vocabulary faithful to the coloring of his own spirit, and in the strictest sense original. [370 That living authority which language needs lies, in truth, in its scholars, who, recognizing always that every language possesses a genius, a very fastidious genius, of its own, expand at once and purify its very elements, which must needs change along with the changing thoughts of living people. Ninety years ago, for instance, great mental force, certainly, was needed by Wordsworth, [380 to break through the consecrated poetic associations of a century, and speak the language that was his, that was to become in a measure the language of the next generation. But he did it with the tact of a scholar also. English, for a quarter of a century past, has been assimilating the phraseology of pictorial art; for half a century, the phraseology of the great German metaphysical movement of [390 eighty years ago; in part also the language of mystical theology: and none but pedants will regret a great consequent increase of its resources. For many years to come its enterprise may well lie in the naturalization of the vocabulary of science, so only it be under the eye of sensitive scholarship—in a liberal naturalization of the ideas of science too, for after all, the chief stimulus of [400 good style is to possess a full, rich, complex matter to grapple with. The literary artist, therefore, will be well aware of physical science; science also attaining, in its turn, its true literary ideal. And then, as the scholar is nothing without the historic sense, he will be apt to restore not really obsolete or really worn-out words, but the finer edge of words still in use: *ascertain*, *communicate*, [410 *discover*—words like these it has been part of our "business" to misuse. And still, as language was made for man, he will be no authority for correctnesses which, limiting freedom of utterance, were yet but accidents in their origin; as if one

vowed not to say "*its*," which ought to have been in Shakespeare, "*his*" and "*hers*," for inanimate objects, being but a barbarous and really inexpressive [420 survival. Yet we have known many things like this. Racy Saxon monosyllables, close to us as touch and sight, he will intermix readily with those long, savorsome, Latin words, rich in "second intention." In this late day certainly, no critical process can be conducted reasonably without eclecticism. Of such eclecticism we have a justifying example in one of the first poets of our time. [430 How illustrative of monosyllabic effect, of sonorous Latin, of the phraseology of science, of metaphysic, of colloquialism even, are the writings of Tennyson; yet with what a fine, fastidious scholarship throughout!

A scholar writing for the scholarly, he will of course leave something to the willing intelligence of his reader. "To go preach to the first passer-by," says [440 Montaigne, "to become tutor to the ignorance of the first I meet, is a thing I abhor;" a thing, in fact, naturally distressing to the scholar, who will therefore ever be shy of offering uncomplimentary assistance to the reader's wit. To really strenuous minds there is a pleasurable stimulus in the challenge for a continuous effort on their part, to be rewarded by securer and more inti- [450 mate grasp of the author's sense. Self-restraint, a skilful economy of means, *ascēsis*, that too has a beauty of its own; and for the reader supposed, there will be an aesthetic satisfaction in that frugal closeness of style which makes the most of a word, in the exaction from every sentence of a precise relief, in the just spacing out of words to thought, in the logically filled space connected always [460 with the delightful sense of difficulty overcome.

Different classes of persons, at different times, make, of course, very various demands upon literature. Still, scholars, I suppose, and not only scholars, but all disinterested lovers of books, will always look to it, as to all other fine art, for a refuge, a sort of cloistral refuge, from a certain vulgarity in the actual world. [470

A perfect poem like *Lycidas*, a perfect fiction like *Esmond*, the perfect handling of a theory like Newman's *Idea of a University*, has for them something of the uses of a religious "retreat." Here, then, with a view to the central need of a select few, those "men of a finer thread" who have formed and maintain the literary ideal, everything, every component element will have undergone exact trial, [480 and, above all, there will be no uncharacteristic or tarnished or vulgar decoration, permissible ornament being for the most part structural, or necessary. As the painter in his picture, so the artist in his book, aims at the production by honorable artifice of a peculiar atmosphere. "The artist," says Schiller, "may be known rather by what he *omits*;" and in literature, too, the true artist [490 may be best recognized by his tact of omission. For to the grave reader words too are grave; and the ornamental word, the figure, the accessory form or color or reference, is rarely content to die to thought precisely at the right moment, but will inevitably linger awhile, stirring a long "brain-wave" behind it of perhaps quite alien associations.

Just there, it may be, is the detri- [500 mental tendency of the sort of scholarly attentiveness of mind I am recommending. But the true artist allows for it. He will remember that, as the very word ornament indicates what is in itself non-essential, so the "one beauty" of all literary style is of its very essence, and independent, in prose and verse alike, of all removable decoration; that it may exist in its fullest luster, as in Flaubert's [510 *Madame Bovary*, for instance, or in Stendhal's *Le Rouge et Le Noir*, in a composition utterly unadorned, with hardly a single suggestion of visibly beautiful things. Parallel, allusion, the allusive way generally, the flowers in the garden:—he knows the narcotic force of these upon the negligent intelligence to which any *diversion*, literally, is welcome, any vagrant intruder, because [520 one can go wandering away with it from the immediate subject. Jealous, if he have a really quickening motive within, of all that does not hold directly to that,

of the facile, the otiose, he will never depart from the strictly pedestrian process, unless he gains a ponderable something thereby. Even assured of its congruity, he will still question its serviceableness. Is it worth while, can we afford, to at- [530] tend to just that, to just that figure or literary reference, just then?—Surplusage! he will dread that, as the runner on his muscles. For in truth all art does but consist in the removal of surplusage, from the last finish of the gem-engraver blowing away the last particle of invisible dust, back to the earliest divination of the finished work to be, lying somewhere, according to Michel- [540] angelo's fancy, in the rough-hewn block of stone.

And what applies to figure or flower must be understood of all other accidental or removable ornaments of writing whatever; and not of specific ornament only, but of all that latent color and imagery which language as such carries in it. A lover of words for their own sake, to whom nothing about [550] them is unimportant, a minute and constant observer of their physiognomy, he will be on the alert not only for obviously mixed metaphors of course, but for the metaphor that is mixed in all our speech, though a rapid use may involve no cognition of it. Currently recognizing the incident, the color, the physical elements or particles in words like *absorb*, *consider*, *extract*, to take the first that [560] occur, he will avail himself of them, as further adding to the resources of expression. The elementary particles of language will be realized as color and light and shade through his scholarly living in the full sense of them. Still opposing the constant degradation of language by those who use it carelessly, he will not treat colored glass as if it were clear; and while half the world is using [570] figure unconsciously, will be fully aware not only of all that latent figurative texture in speech, but of the vague, lazy, half-formed personification—a rhetoric, depressing, and worse than nothing, because it has no really rhetorical motive—which plays so large a part there, and, as in the case of more ostentatious orna-

ment, scrupulously exact of it, from syllable to syllable, its precise value. [580]

So far I have been speaking of certain conditions of the literary art arising out of the medium or material in or upon which it works, the essential qualities of language and its aptitudes for contingent ornamentation, matters which define scholarship as science and good taste respectively. They are both subservient to a more intimate quality of good style: more intimate, as coming [590] nearer to the artist himself. The otiose, the facile, surplusage: why are these abhorrent to the true literary artist, except because, in literary as in all other art, structure is all-important, felt, or painfully missed, everywhere?—that architectural conception of work, which foresees the end in the beginning and never loses sight of it, and in every part is conscious of all the rest, till the last [600] sentence does but, with undiminished vigor, unfold and justify the first—a condition of literary art, which, in contradistinction to another quality of the artist himself, to be spoken of later, I shall call the necessity of *mind* in style.

An acute philosophical writer, the late Dean Mansel (a writer whose works illustrate the literary beauty there may [610] be in closeness, and with obvious repression or economy of a fine rhetorical gift) wrote a book, of fascinating precision in a very obscure subject, to show that all the technical laws of logic are but means of securing, in each and all of its apprehensions, the unity, the strict identity with itself, of the apprehending mind. All the laws of good writing aim at a similar unity or identity of the mind [620] in all the processes by which the word is associated to its import. The term is right, and has its essential beauty, when it becomes, in a manner, what it signifies, as with the names of simple sensations. To give the phrase, the sentence, the structural member, the entire composition, song, or essay, a similar unity with its subject and with itself:—style is in the right way when it [630] tends towards that. All depends upon the original unity, the vital wholeness

and identity, of the initiatory apprehension or view. So much is true of all art, which therefore requires always its logic, its comprehensive reason—insight, foresight, retrospect, in simultaneous action—true, most of all, of the literary art, as being of all the arts most closely cognate to the abstract intelligence. [640 Such logical coherency may be evidenced not merely in the lines of composition as a whole, but in the choice of a single word, while it by no means interferes with, but may even prescribe, much variety, in the building of the sentence for instance, or in the manner, argumentative, descriptive, discursive, of this or that part or member of the entire design. The blithe, crisp sentence, decisive [650 as a child's expression of its needs, may alternate with the long-contending, victoriously intricate sentence; the sentence, born with the integrity of a single word, relieving the sort of sentence in which, if you look closely, you can see much contrivance, much adjustment, to bring a highly qualified matter into compass at one view. For the literary architecture, if it is to be rich and [660 expressive, involves not only foresight of the end in the beginning, but also development or growth of design, in the process of execution, with many irregularities, surprises, and after-thoughts; the contingent as well as the necessary being subsumed under the unity of the whole. As truly, to the lack of such architectural design, of a single, almost visual, image, vigorously informing an en- [670 tire, perhaps very intricate, composition, which shall be austere, ornate, argumentative, fanciful, yet true from first to last to that vision within, may be attributed those weaknesses of conscious or unconscious repetition of word, phrase, motive, or member of the whole matter, indicating, as Flaubert was aware, an original structure in thought not organically complete. With such foresight, [680 the actual conclusion will most often get itself written out of hand, before, in the more obvious sense, the work is finished. With some strong and leading sense of the world, the tight hold of which secures true *composition* and not mere loose

accretion, the literary artist, I suppose, goes on considerably, setting joint to joint, sustained by yet restraining the productive ardor, retracing the negligences of his first sketch, repeating his steps only that he may give the reader a sense of secure and restful progress, readjusting mere assonances even, that they may soothe the reader, or at least not interrupt him on his way; and then, somewhere before the end comes, is burdened, inspired, with his conclusion, and betimes delivered of it, leaving off, not in weariness and because he finds [700 *himself* at an end, but in all the freshness of volition. His work now structurally complete, with all the accumulating effect of secondary shades of meaning, he finishes the whole up to the just proportion of that ante-penultimate conclusion, and all becomes expressive. The house he has built is rather a body he has informed. And so it happens, to its greater credit, that the better interest even of [710 a narrative to be recounted, a story to be told, will often be in its second reading. And though there are instances of great writers who have been no artists, an unconscious tact sometimes directing work in which we may detect, very pleasurably, many of the effects of conscious art, yet one of the greatest pleasures of really good prose literature is in the critical tracing out of that conscious artistic structure, [720 and the pervading sense of it as we read. Yet of poetic literature too; for, in truth, the kind of constructive intelligence here supposed is one of the forms of the imagination.

That is the special function of mind, in style. Mind and soul:—hard to ascertain philosophically, the distinction is real enough practically, for they often interfere, are sometimes in conflict, [730 with each other. Blake, in the last century, is an instance of preponderating soul, embarrassed, at a loss, in an era of preponderating mind. As a quality of style, at all events, soul is a fact, in certain writers—the way they have of absorbing language, of attracting it into the peculiar spirit they are of, with a subtlety which makes the actual result seem like some inexplicable inspiration. [740

By mind, the literary artist reaches us, through static and objective indications of design in his work, legible to all. By soul, he reaches us, somewhat capriciously perhaps, one and not another, through vagrant sympathy and a kind of immediate contact. Mind we cannot choose but approve where we recognize it; soul may repel us, not because we misunderstand it. The way in which [750] theological interests sometimes avail themselves of language is perhaps the best illustration of the force I mean to indicate generally in literature, by the word *soul*. Ardent religious persuasion may exist, may make its way, without finding any equivalent heat in language: or, again, it may enkindle words to various degrees, and when it really takes hold of them doubles its force. Religious [760] history presents many remarkable instances in which, through no mere phrase-worship, an unconscious literary tact has, for the sensitive, laid open a privileged pathway from one to another. "The altar-fire," people say, "has touched those lips!" The Vulgate, the English Bible, the English Prayer-Book, the writings of Swedenborg, the Tracts for the Times:—there, we have instances [770] of widely different and largely diffused phases of religious feeling in operation as soul in style. But something of the same kind acts with similar power in certain writers of quite other than theological literature, on behalf of some wholly personal and peculiar sense of theirs. Most easily illustrated by theological literature, this quality lends to profane writers a kind of religious influence. At their [780] best, these writers become, as we say sometimes, "prophets;" such character depending on the effect not merely of their matter, but of their matter as allied to, in "electric affinity" with, peculiar form, and working in all cases by an immediate sympathetic contact, on which account it is that it may be called soul, as opposed to mind, in style. And this too is a faculty of choosing and rejecting what is [790] congruous or otherwise, with a drift towards unity—unity of atmosphere here, as there of design—soul securing color (or perfume, might we say?) as mind

secures form, the latter being essentially finite, the former vague or infinite, as the influence of a living person is practically infinite. There are some to whom nothing has any real interest, or real meaning, except as operative in a [800] given person; and it is they who best appreciate the quality of soul in literary art. They seem to know a *person*, in a book, and make way by intuition: yet, although they thus enjoy the completeness of a personal information, it is still a characteristic of soul, in this sense of the word, that it does but suggest what can never be uttered, not as being different from, or more obscure than, what ac- [810] tually gets said, but as containing that plenary substance of which there is only one phase or facet in what is there expressed.

If all high things have their martyrs, Gustave Flaubert might perhaps rank as the martyr of literary style. In his printed correspondence a curious series of letters, written in his twenty-fifth year, records what seems to have been [820] his one other passion—a series of letters which, with its fine casuistries, its firmly repressed anguish, its tone of harmonious gray, and the sense of disillusion in which the whole matter ends, might have been, a few slight changes supposed, one of his own fictions. Writing to Madame X. certainly he does display, by "taking thought" mainly, by constant and delicate pondering, as in his love for [830] literature, a heart really moved, but still more, and as the pledge of that emotion, a loyalty to his work. Madame X., too, is a literary artist, and the best gifts he can send her are precepts of perfection in art, counsels for the effectual pursuit of that better love. In his love-letters it is the pains and pleasures of art he insists on, its solaces: he communicates secrets, reproves, encourages, [840] with a view to that. Whether the lady was dissatisfied with such divided or indirect service, the reader is not enabled to see; but sees that, on Flaubert's part at least, a living person could be no rival of what was, from first to last, his leading passion, a somewhat solitary and exclusive one.

"I must scold you," he writes, "for one thing, which shocks, scandalizes me, [850 the small concern, namely, you show for art just now. As regards glory be it so: there, I approve. But for art!—the one thing in life that is good and real—can you compare with it an earthly love?—prefer the adoration of a relative beauty to the *cultus* of the true beauty? Well! I tell you the truth. That is the one thing good in me: the one thing I have, to me estimable. For yourself, you blend [860 with the beautiful a heap of alien things, the useful, the agreeable, what not?—

"The only way not to be unhappy is to shut yourself up in art, and count everything else as nothing. Pride takes the place of all beside when it is established on a large basis. Work! God wills it. That, it seems to me, is clear.—

"I am reading over again the *Æneid*, [870 certain verses of which I repeat to myself to satiety. There are phrases there which stay in one's head, by which I find myself beset, as with those musical airs which are forever returning, and cause you pain, you love them so much. I observe that I no longer laugh much, and am no longer depressed. I am ripe. You talk of my serenity, and envy me. It may well surprise you. Sick, [880 irritated, the prey a thousand times a day of cruel pain, I continue my labor like a true working-man, who, with sleeves turned up, in the sweat of his brow, beats away at his anvil, never troubling himself whether it rains or blows, for hail or thunder. I was not like that formerly. The change has taken place naturally, though my will has counted for something in the matter.— [890

"Those who write in good style are sometimes accused of a neglect of ideas, and of the moral end, as if the end of the physician were something else than healing, of the painter than painting—as if the end of art were not, before all else, the beautiful."

What, then, did Flaubert understand by beauty, in the art he pursued with so much fervor, with so much self- [900 command? Let us hear a sympathetic commentator:—

"Possessed of an absolute belief that there exists but one way of expressing one thing, one word to call it by, one adjective to qualify, one verb to animate it, he gave himself to superhuman labor for the discovery, in every phrase, of that word, that verb, that epithet. In this way, he believed in some mysterious [910 harmony of expression, and when a true word seemed to him to lack euphony still went on seeking another, with invincible patience, certain that he had not yet got hold of the *unique* word. . . . A thousand preoccupations would beset him at the same moment, always with this desperate certitude fixed in his spirit: Among all the expressions in the world, all forms and turns of expression, there is but [920 *one*—one form, one mode—to express what I want to say."

The one word for the one thing, the one thought, amid the multitude of words, terms, that might just do: the problem of style was there!—the unique word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, essay, or song, absolutely proper to the single mental presentation or vision within. In that perfect justice, over and above the [930 many contingent and removable beauties with which beautiful style may charm us, but which it can exist without, independent of them yet dexterously availing itself of them, omnipresent in good work, in function at every point, from single epithets to the rhythm of a whole book, lay the specific, indispensable, very intellectual, beauty of literature, the possibility of which constitutes it a fine [940 art.

One seems to detect the influence of a philosophic idea there, the idea of a natural economy, of some preëxistent adaptation, between a relative, somewhere in the world of thought, and its correlative, somewhere in the world of language—both alike, rather, somewhere in the mind of the artist, desiderative, expectant, inventive—meeting each other [950 with the readiness of "soul and body reunited," in Blake's rapturous design; and, in fact, Flaubert was fond of giving his theory philosophical expression.—

"There are no beautiful thoughts," he

would say, "without beautiful forms, and conversely. As it is impossible to extract from a physical body the qualities which really constitute it—color, extension, [960 and the like—without reducing it to a hollow abstraction, in a word, without destroying it; just so it is impossible to detach the form from the idea, for the idea only exists by virtue of the form."

All the recognized flowers, the removable ornaments of literature (including harmony and ease in reading aloud, very carefully considered by him) counted certainly; for these too are part of the [970 actual value of what one says. But still, after all, with Flaubert, the search, the unwearied research, was not for the smooth, or winsome, or forcible word, as such, as with false Ciceronians, but quite simply and honestly for the word's adjustment to its meaning. The first condition of this must be, of course, to know yourself, to have ascertained your own sense exactly. Then, if we suppose [980 an artist, he says to the reader,—I want you to see precisely what I see. Into the mind sensitive to "form," a flood of random sounds, colors, incidents, is ever penetrating from the world without, to become, by sympathetic selection, a part of its very structure, and, in turn, the visible vesture and expression of that other world it sees so steadily within, nay, already with a partial con- [990 formity thereto, to be refined, enlarged, corrected, at a hundred points; and it is just there, just at those doubtful points that the function of style, as tact or taste, intervenes. The unique term will come more quickly to one than another, at one time than another, according also to the kind of matter in question. Quick-ness and slowness, ease and closeness alike, have nothing to do with the [1000 artistic character of the true word found at last. As there is a charm of ease, so there is also a special charm in the signs of discovery, of effort and contention towards a due end, as so often with Flaubert himself—in the style which has been pliant, as only obstinate, durable metal can be, to the inherent perplexities and recusancy of a certain difficult thought. [1010

If Flaubert had not told us, perhaps we should never have guessed how tardy and painful his own procedure really was, and after reading his confession may think that his almost endless hesitation had much to do with diseased nerves. Often, perhaps, the felicity supposed will be the product of a happier, a more exuberant nature than Flaubert's. Aggravated, certainly, by a morbid physical condi- [1020 tion, that anxiety in "seeking the phrase," which gathered all the other small *ennuis* of a really quiet existence into a kind of battle, was connected with his lifelong contention against facile poetry, facile art—art, facile and flimsy; and what constitutes the true artist is not the slowness or quickness of the process, but the absolute success of the result. As with those laborers in the parable, the [1030 prize is independent of the mere length of the actual day's work. "You talk," he writes, odd, trying lover, to Madame X.—

"You talk of the exclusiveness of my literary tastes. That might have enabled you to divine what kind of a person I am in the matter of love. I grow so hard to please as a literary artist, that I am driven to despair. I shall end by not writing another line." [1040

"Happy," he cries, in a moment of discouragement at that patient labor, which for him, certainly, was the condition of a great success—

"Happy those who have no doubts of themselves! who lengthen out, as the pen runs on, all that flows forth from their brains. As for me, I hesitate, I disappoint myself, turn round upon myself in despite: my taste is augmented in [1050 proportion as my natural vigor decreases, and I afflict my soul over some dubious word out of all proportion to the pleasure I get from a whole page of good writing. One would have to live two centuries to attain a true idea of any matter whatever. What Buffon said is a big blasphemy: genius is not long-continued patience. Still, there is some truth in the statement, and more than people [1060 think, especially as regards our own day. Art! art! art! bitter deception! phantom that glows with light, only to lead one on to destruction."

Again—

"I am growing so peevish about my writing. I am like a man whose ear is true but who plays falsely on the violin: his fingers refuse to reproduce precisely those sounds of which he has the [1070 inward sense. Then the tears come rolling down from the poor scraper's eyes and the bow falls from his hand."

Coming slowly or quickly, when it comes, as it came with so much labor of mind, but also with so much luster, to Gustave Flaubert, this discovery of the word will be, like all artistic success and felicity, incapable of strict analysis: effect of an intuitive condition of mind, [1080 it must be recognized by like intuition on the part of the reader, and a sort of immediate sense. In every one of those masterly sentences of Flaubert there was, below all mere contrivance, shaping and afterthought, by some happy instantaneous concourse of the various faculties of the mind with each other, the exact apprehension of what was *needed* to carry the meaning. And that [1090 it fits with absolute justice will be a judgment of immediate sense in the appreciative reader. We all feel this in what may be called inspired translation. Well! all language involves translation from inward to outward. In literature, as in all forms of art, there are the absolute and the merely relative or accessory beauties; and precisely in that exact proportion of the term to its purpose is the [1100 absolute beauty of style, prose or verse. All the good qualities, the beauties, of verse also, are such, only as precise expression.

In the highest as in the lowliest literature, then, the one indispensable beauty is, after all, truth:—truth to bare fact in the latter, as to some personal sense of fact, diverted somewhat from men's ordinary sense of it, in the former; [1110 truth there as accuracy, truth here as expression, that finest and most intimate form of truth, the *vraie vérité*. And what an eclectic principle this really is! employing for its one sole purpose—that absolute accordance of expression to idea—all other literary beauties and excellences whatever: how many kinds of

style it covers, explains, justifies, and at the same time safeguards! Scott's [1120 facility, Flaubert's deeply pondered evocation of "the phrase," are equally good art. Say what you have to say, what you have a will to say, in the simplest, the most direct and exact manner possible, with no surplusage:—there, is the justification of the sentence so fortunately born, "entire, smooth, and round," that it needs no punctuation, and also (that is the point!) of the most [1130 elaborate period, if it be right in its elaboration. Here is the office of ornament: here also the purpose of restraint in ornament. As the exponent of truth, that austerity (the beauty, the function, of which in literature Flaubert understood so well) becomes not the correctness or purism of the mere scholar, but a security against the otiose, a jealous exclusion of what does not really tell towards the [1140 pursuit of relief, of life and vigor in the portraiture of one's sense. License again, the making free with rule, if it be indeed, as people fancy, a habit of genius, flinging aside or transforming all that opposes the liberty of beautiful production, will be but faith to one's own meaning. The seeming baldness of *Le Rouge et Le Noir* is nothing in itself; the wild ornament of *Les Misérables* is nothing in it- [1150 self; and the restraint of Flaubert, amid a real natural opulence, only redoubled beauty—the phrase so large and so precise at the same time, hard as bronze, in service to the more perfect adaptation of words to their matter. Afterthoughts, retouchings, finish, will be of profit only so far as they too really serve to bring out the original, initiative, generative, sense in them. [1160

In this way, according to the well-known saying, "The style is the man," complex or simple, in his individuality, his plenary sense of what he really has to say, his sense of the world; all cautions regarding style arising out of so many natural scruples as to the medium through which alone he can expose that inward sense of things, the purity of this medium, its laws or tricks of refraction: [1170 nothing is to be left there which might give conveyance to any matter save that.

Style in all its varieties, reserved or opulent, terse, abundant, musical, stimulant, academic, so long as each is really characteristic or expressive, finds thus its justification, the sumptuous good taste of Cicero being as truly the man himself, and not another, justified, yet insured inalienably to him, thereby, as would [1180] have been his portrait by Raffaele, in full consular splendor, on his ivory chair.

A relegation, you may say perhaps—a relegation of style to the subjectivity, the mere caprice, of the individual, which must soon transform it into mannerism. Not so! since there is, under the conditions supposed, for those elements of the man, for every lineament of the [1190] vision within, the one word, the one acceptable word, recognizable by the sensitive, by others “who have intelligence” in the matter, as absolutely as ever anything can be in the evanescent and delicate region of human language. The style, the manner, would be the man, not in his unreasoned and really uncharacteristic caprices, involuntary or affected, but in absolutely sincere apprehen- [1200] sion of what is most real to him. But let us hear our French guide again.—

“Styles,” says Flaubert’s commentator, “*Styles*, as so many peculiar molds, each of which bears the mark of a particular writer, who is to pour into it the whole content of his ideas, were no part of his theory. What he believed in was *Style*: that is to say, a certain absolute and unique manner of expressing a [1210] thing, in all its intensity and color. For him the *form* was the work itself. As in living creatures, the blood, nourishing the body, determines its very contour and external aspect, just so, to his mind, the *matter*, the basis, in a work of art, imposed necessarily the unique, the just expression, the measure, the rhythm—the *form* in all its characteristics.”

If the style be the man, in all the [1220] color and intensity of a veritable apprehension, it will be in a real sense “impersonal.”

I said, thinking of books like Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables*, that prose literature was the characteristic art of the nineteenth century, as others, thinking of

its triumphs since the youth of Bach, have assigned that place to music. Music and prose literature are, in one sense, the opposite terms of art; the art of [1230] literature presenting to the imagination, through the intelligence, a range of interests, as free and various as those which music presents to it through sense. And, certainly the tendency of what has been here said is to bring literature too under those conditions, by conformity to which music takes rank as the typically perfect art. If music be the ideal of all art whatever, precisely because in music it is [1240] impossible to distinguish the form from the substance or matter, the subject from the expression, then literature, by finding its specific excellence in the absolute correspondence of the term to its import, will be but fulfilling the condition of all artistic quality in things everywhere, of all good art.

Good art, but not necessarily great art; the distinction between great art and good art depending immediately, [1250] as regards literature at all events, not on its form, but on the matter. Thackeray’s *Esmond*, surely, is greater art than *Vanity Fair*, by the greater dignity of its interests. It is on the quality of the matter it informs or controls, its compass, its variety, its alliance to great ends, or the depth of the note of revolt, or the largeness of hope in it, that the greatness of literary art depends, as *The Divine Comedy*, *Paradise Lost*, *Les Misérables*, *The English Bible*, are great art. Given the conditions I have tried to explain as constituting good art;—then, if it be devoted further to the increase of men’s happiness, to the redemption of the oppressed, or the enlargement of our sympathies with each other, or to such presentment of new or old truth about ourselves and our relation to the [1270] world as may ennoble and fortify us in our sojourn here, or immediately, as with Dante, to the glory of God, it will be also great art; if, over and above those qualities I summed up as mind and soul—that color and mystic perfume, and that reasonable structure, it has something of the soul of humanity in it, and finds its logical, its architectural place, in the great structure of human life. [1280]

WORDSWORTH

Some English critics at the beginning of the present century had a great deal to say concerning a distinction of much importance, as they thought, in the true estimate of poetry, between the *Fancy*, and another more powerful faculty—the *Imagination*. This metaphysical distinction, borrowed originally from the writings of German philosophers, and perhaps not always clearly apprehended by [10 those who talked of it, involved a far deeper and more vital distinction, with which indeed all true criticism more or less directly has to do, the distinction, namely, between higher and lower degrees of intensity in the poet's perception of his subject, and in his concentration of himself upon his work. Of those who dwelt upon the metaphysical distinction between the *Fancy* and the *Im-* [20 *agination*, it was Wordsworth who made the most of it, assuming it as the basis for the final classification of his poetical writings; and it is in these writings that the deeper and more vital distinction, which, as I have said, underlies the metaphysical distinction, is most needed, and may best be illustrated.

For nowhere is there so perplexed a mixture as in Wordsworth's own poe- [30 try, of work touched with intense and individual power, with work of almost no character at all. He has much conventional sentiment, and some of that insincere poetic diction, against which his most serious critical efforts were directed: the reaction in his political ideas, consequent on the excesses of 1795, makes him, at times, a mere declaimer on moral and social topics; and he [40 seems, sometimes, to force an unwilling pen, and write by rule. By making the most of these blemishes it is possible to obscure the true æsthetic value of his work, just as his life also, a life of much quiet delicacy and independence, might easily be placed in a false focus, and made to appear a somewhat tame theme in illustration of the more obvious parochial virtues. And those who wish to under- [50 stand his influence, and experience his peculiar savor, must bear with patience

the presence of an alien element in Wordsworth's work, which never coalesced with what is really delightful in it, nor underwent his special power. Who that values his writings most has not felt the intrusion there, from time to time, of something tedious and prosaic? Of all poets equally great, he would gain most by [60 a skilfully made anthology. Such a selection would show, in truth, not so much what he was, or to himself or others seemed to be, as what, by the more energetic and fertile quality in his writings, he was ever tending to become. And the mixture in his work, as it actually stands, is so perplexed, that one fears to miss the least promising composition even, lest some precious morsel should be lying [70 hidden within—the few perfect lines, the phrase, the single word perhaps, to which he often works up mechanically through a poem, almost the whole of which may be tame enough. He who thought that 'in all creative work the larger part was *given* passively, to the recipient mind, who waited so dutifully upon the gift, to whom so large a measure was sometimes given, had his [80 times also of desertion and relapse; and he has permitted the impress of these too to remain in his work. And this duality there—the fitfulness with which the higher qualities manifest themselves in it, gives the effect in his poetry of a power not altogether his own, or under his control, which comes and goes when it will, lifting or lowering a matter, poor in itself; so that that old fancy which [90 made the poet's art an enthusiasm, a form of divine possession, seems almost literally true of him.

This constant suggestion of an absolute duality between higher and lower moods, and the work done in them, stimulating one always to look below the surface, makes the reading of Wordsworth an excellent sort of training towards the things of art and poetry. It begets in [100 those, who, coming across him in youth, can bear him at all, a habit of reading between the lines, a faith in the effect of concentration and collectedness of mind in the right appreciation of poetry, an expectation of things, in this order, com-

ing to one by means of a right discipline of the temper as well as of the intellect. He meets us with the promise that he has much, and something very peculiar, [110 to give us, if we will follow a certain difficult way, and seems to have the secret of a special and privileged state of mind. And those who have undergone his influence, and followed this difficult way, are like people who have passed through some initiation, a *disciplina arcani*, by submitting to which they become able constantly to distinguish in art, speech, feeling, manners, that which is organic, [120 animated, expressive, from that which is only conventional, derivative, inexpressive.

But although the necessity of selecting these precious morsels for oneself is an opportunity for the exercise of Wordsworth's peculiar influence, and induces a kind of just criticism and true estimate of it, yet the purely literary product would have been more excellent, had the writer himself purged away that alien [130 element. How perfect would have been the little treasury, shut between the covers of how thin a book! Let us suppose the desired separation made, the electric thread untwined, the golden pieces, great and small, lying apart together. What are the peculiarities of this residue? What special sense does Wordsworth exercise, and what instincts does he satisfy? What are the subjects [140 and the motives which in him excite the imaginative faculty? What are the qualities in things and persons which he values, the impression and sense of which he can convey to others, in an extraordinary way?

An intimate consciousness of the expression of natural things, which weighs, listens, penetrates, where the earlier mind passed roughly by, is a large element in the complexion of modern [150 poetry. It has been remarked as a fact in mental history again and again. It reveals itself in many forms; but is strongest and most attractive in what is strongest and most attractive in modern literature. It is exemplified, almost equally, by writers as unlike each other as Senancour and Théophile Gautier: as a singular chapter in the history of the

human mind, its growth might be [160 traced from Rousseau to Chateaubriand, from Chateaubriand to Victor Hugo: it has doubtless some latent connection with those pantheistic theories which locate an intelligent soul in material things, and have largely exercised men's minds in some modern systems of philosophy: it is traceable even in the graver writings of historians: it makes as much difference between ancient and modern [170 landscape art, as there is between the rough masks of an early mosaic and a portrait by Reynolds or Gainsborough. Of this new sense, the writings of Wordsworth are the central and elementary expression: he is more simply and entirely occupied with it than any other poet, though there are fine expressions of precisely the same thing in so different a poet as Shelley. There was in his [180 own character a certain contentment, a sort of inborn religious placidity, seldom found united with a sensibility so mobile as his, which was favorable to the quiet, habitual observation of inanimate, or imperfectly animate, existence. His life of eighty years is divided by no very profoundly felt incidents: its changes are almost wholly inward, and it falls into broad, untroubled, perhaps somewhat [190 monotonous spaces. What it most resembles is the life of one of those early Italian or Flemish painters, who, just because their minds were full of heavenly visions, passed, some of them, the better part of sixty years in quiet, systematic industry. This placid life matured a quite unusual sensibility, really innate in him, to the sights and sounds of the natural world—the flower and its [200 shadow on the stone, the cuckoo and its echo. The poem of *Resolution and Independence* is a storehouse of such records: for its fulness of imagery it may be compared to Keats's *Saint Agnes' Eve*. To read one of his longer pastoral poems for the first time, is like a day spent in a new country: the memory is crowded for a while with its precise and vivid incidents— [210

"The pliant harebell swinging in the breeze
On some gray rock";—

"The single sheep and the one blasted tree
And the bleak music from that old stone
wall";—

"And in the meadows and the lower
grounds
Was all the sweetness of a common
dawn";—

"And that green corn all day is rustling
in thine ears."

Clear and delicate at once, as he is in the outlining of visible imagery, he is more clear and delicate still, and finely [220] scrupulous, in the noting of sounds; so that he conceives a noble sound as even moulding the human countenance to nobler types, and as something actually "profaned" by color, by visible form, or image. He has a power likewise of realizing, and conveying to the consciousness of the reader, abstract and elementary impressions—silence, darkness, absolute motionlessness: or, again, the [230] whole complex sentiment of a particular place, the abstract expression of desolation in the long white road, of peacefulness in a particular folding of the hills. In the airy building of the brain, a special day or hour even, comes to have for him a sort of personal identity, a spirit or angel given to it, by which, for its exceptional insight, or the happy light upon it, it has a presence in [240] one's history, and acts there, as a separate power or accomplishment; and he has celebrated in many of his poems the "efficacious spirit," which, as he says, resides in these "particular spots" of time.

It is to such a world, and to a world of congruous meditation thereon, that we see him retiring in his but lately published poem of *The Recluse*—taking leave, [250] without much count of costs, of the world of business, of action and ambition, as also of all that for the majority of mankind counts as sensuous enjoyment.

And so it came about that this sense of a life in natural objects, which in most poetry is but a rhetorical artifice, is with Wordsworth the assertion of what for him is almost literal fact. To him every natural object seemed to possess [260]

more or less of a moral or spiritual life, to be capable of a companionship with man, full of expression, of inexplicable affinities and delicacies of intercourse. An emanation, a particular spirit, belonged, not to the moving leaves or water only, but to the distant peak of the hills arising suddenly, by some change of perspective, above the nearer horizon, to the passing space of light across the [270] plain, to the lichened Druidic stone even, for a certain weird fellowship in it with the moods of men. It was like a "survival," in the peculiar intellectual temperament of a man of letters at the end of the eighteenth century, of that primitive condition, which some philosophers have traced in the general history of human culture, wherein all outward objects alike, including even the [280] works of men's hands, were believed to be endowed with animation, and the world was "full of souls"—that mood in which the old Greek gods were first begotten, and which had many strange aftergrowths.

In the early ages, this belief, delightful as its effects on poetry often are, was but the result of a crude intelligence. But, in Wordsworth, such power of seeing [290] life, such perception of a soul, in inanimate things, came of an exceptional susceptibility to the impressions of eye and ear, and was, in its essence, a kind of sensuousness. At least, it is only in a temperament exceptionally susceptible on the sensuous side, that this sense of the expressiveness of outward things comes to be so large a part of life. That he awakened "a sort of thought in [300] sense," is Shelley's just estimate of this element in Wordsworth's poetry.

And it was through nature, thus ennobled by a semblance of passion and thought, that he approached the spectacle of human life. Human life, indeed, is for him, at first, only an additional, accidental grace on an expressive landscape. When he thought of man, it was of man as in the presence and [310] under the influence of these effective natural objects, and linked to them by many associations. The close connection of man with natural objects, the habitual

association of his thoughts and feelings with a particular spot of earth, has sometimes seemed to degrade those who are subject to its influence, as if it did but reinforce that physical connection of our nature with the actual lime and clay of [320 the soil, which is always drawing us nearer to our end. But for Wordsworth, these influences tended to the dignity of human nature, because they tended to tranquilize it. By raising nature to the level of human thought he gives it power and expression: he subdues man to the level of nature, and gives him thereby a certain breadth and coolness and solemnity. The leech-gatherer on the moor, [330 the woman "stepping westward," are for him natural objects, almost in the same sense as the aged thorn, or the lichen rock on the heath. In this sense the leader of the "Lake School," in spite of an earnest preoccupation with man, his thoughts, his destiny, is the poet of nature. And of nature, after all, in its modesty. The English lake country has, of course, its grandeurs. [340 But the peculiar function of Wordsworth's genius, as carrying in it a power to open out the soul of apparently little or familiar things, would have found its true test had he become the poet of Surrey, say! and the prophet of its life. The glories of Italy and Switzerland, though he did write a little about them, had too potent a material life of their own to serve greatly his poetic [350 purpose.

Religious sentiment, consecrating the affections and natural regrets of the human heart, above all, that pitiful awe and care for the perishing human clay, of which relic-worship is but the corruption, has always had much to do with localities, with the thoughts which attach themselves to actual scenes and places. Now what is true of it everywhere, is [360 truest of it in those secluded valleys where one generation after another maintains the same abiding-place; and it was on this side, that Wordsworth apprehended religion most strongly. Consisting, as it did so much, in the recognition of local sanctities, in the habit of connecting the stones and trees of a particular

spot of earth with the great events of life, till the low walls, the green mounds, [370 the half-obliterated epitaphs seemed full of voices, and a sort of natural oracles, the very religion of these people of the dales appeared but as another link between them and the earth, and was literally a religion of nature. It tranquillized them by bringing them under the placid rule of traditional and narrowly localized observances. "Grave livers," they seemed to him, under this aspect, with [380 stately speech, and something of that natural dignity of manners, which underlies the highest courtesy.

And, seeing man thus as a part of nature, elevated and solemnized in proportion as his daily life and occupations brought him into companionship with permanent natural objects, his very religion forming new links for him with the narrow limits of the valley, the low vaults [390 of his church, the rough stones of his home, made intense for him now with profound sentiment, Wordsworth was able to appreciate passion in the lowly. He chooses to depict people from humble life, because, being nearer to nature than others, they are on the whole more impassioned, certainly more direct in their expression of passion, than other men: it is for this direct expression of passion, [400 that he values their humble words. In much that he said in exaltation of rural life, he was but pleading indirectly for that sincerity, that perfect fidelity to one's own inward presentations, to the precise features of the picture within, without which any profound poetry is impossible. It was not for their tameness, but for this passionate sincerity, that he chose incidents and situations [410 from common life, "related in a selection of language really used by men." He constantly endeavors to bring his language near to the real language of men: to the real language of men, however, not on the dead level of their ordinary intercourse, but in select moments of vivid sensation, when this language is winnowed and ennobled by excitement. There are poets who have chosen rural [420 life as their subject, for the sake of its passionless repose, and times when Words-

worth himself extols the mere calm and dispassionate survey of things as the highest aim of poetical culture. But it was not for such passionless calm that he preferred the scenes of pastoral life; and the meditative poet, sheltering himself, as it might seem, from the agitations of the outward world, is in reality only [430 clearing the scene for the great exhibitions of emotion, and what he values most is the almost elementary expression of elementary feelings.

And so he has much for those who value highly the concentrated presentment of passion, who appraise men and women by their susceptibility to it, and art and poetry as they afford the spectacle of it. Breaking from time [440 to time into the pensive spectacle of their daily toil, their occupations near to nature, come those great elementary feelings, lifting and solemnizing their language and giving it a natural music. The great, distinguishing passion came to Michael by the sheepfold, to Ruth by the wayside, adding these humble children of the furrow to the true aristocracy of passionate souls. In this [450 respect, Wordsworth's work resembles most that of George Sand, in those of her novels which depict country life. With a penetrative pathos, which puts him in the same rank with the masters of the sentiment of pity in literature, with Meinhold and Victor Hugo, he collects all the traces of vivid excitement which were to be found in that pastoral world—the girl who rung her father's knell; the [460 unborn infant feeling about its mother's heart; the instinctive touches of children; the sorrows of the wild creatures, even—their home-sickness, their strange yearnings; the tales of passionate regret that hang by a ruined farm-building, a heap of stones, a deserted sheepfold; that gay, false, adventurous, outer world, which breaks in from time to time to bewilder and deflower these quiet homes; [470 not "passionate sorrow" only, for the overthrow of the soul's beauty, but the loss of, or carelessness for personal beauty even, in those whom men have wronged—their pathetic wanness; the sailor "who, in his heart, was half a shepherd on

the stormy seas;" the wild woman teaching her child to pray for her betrayer; incidents like the making of the shepherd's staff, or that of the young boy laying [480 the first stone of the sheepfold;—all the pathetic episodes of their humble existence, their longing, their wonder at fortune, their poor pathetic pleasures, like the pleasures of children, won so hardly in the struggle for bare existence; their yearning towards each other, in their darkened houses, or at their early toil. A sort of biblical depth and solemnity hangs over this strange, new, pas- [490 sionate, pastoral world, of which he first raised the image, and the reflection of which some of our best modern fiction has caught from him.

He pondered much over the philosophy of his poetry, and reading deeply in the history of his own mind, seems at times to have passed the borders of a world of strange speculations, inconsistent enough, had he cared to note such [500 inconsistencies, with those traditional beliefs, which were otherwise the object of his devout acceptance. Thinking of the high value he set upon customariness, upon all that is habitual, local, rooted in the ground, in matters of religious sentiment, you might sometimes regard him as one tethered down to a world, refined and peaceful indeed, but with no broad outlook, a world protected, but [510 somewhat narrowed, by the influence of received ideas. But he is at times also something very different from this, and something much bolder. A chance expression is overheard and placed in a new connection, the sudden memory of a thing long past occurs to him, a distant object is relieved for a while by a random gleam of light—accidents turning up for a moment what lies below the [520 surface of our immediate experience—and he passes from the humble graves and lowly arches of "the little rock-like pile" of a Westmoreland church, on bold trains of speculative thought, and comes, from point to point, into strange contact with thoughts which have visited, from time to time, far more venturesome, perhaps errant, spirits.

He had pondered deeply, for in- [530 stance, on those strange reminiscences and forebodings, which seem to make our lives stretch before and behind us, beyond where we can see or touch anything, or trace the lines of connection. Following the soul, backwards and forwards, on these endless ways, his sense of man's dim, potential powers became a pledge to him, indeed, of a future life, but carried him back also to that mysterious notion [540 of an earlier state of existence—the fancy of the Platonists—the old heresy of Origen. It was in this mood that he conceived those oft-reiterated regrets for a half-ideal childhood, when the relics of Paradise still clung about the soul—a childhood, as it seemed, full of the fruits of old age, lost for all, in a degree, in the passing away of the youth of the world, lost for each one, over again, in [550 the passing away of actual youth. It is this ideal childhood which he celebrates in his famous *Ode on the Recollections of Childhood*, and some other poems which may be grouped around it, such as the lines on *Tintern Abbey*, and something like what he describes was actually truer of himself than he seems to have understood; for his own most delightful poems were really the instinctive pro- [560 ductions of earlier life, and most surely for him, “the first diviner influence of this world” passed away, more and more completely, in his contact with experience.

Sometimes as he dwelt upon those moments of profound, imaginative power, in which the outward object appears to take color and expression, a new nature almost, from the prompting of the [570 observant mind, the actual world would, as it were, dissolve and detach itself, flake by flake, and he himself seemed to be the creator, and when he would, the destroyer, of the world in which he lived—that old isolating thought of many a brain-sick mystic of ancient and modern times.

At other times, again, in those periods of intense susceptibility, in which he [580 appeared to himself as but the passive recipient of external influences, he was attracted by the thought of a spirit of

life in outward things, a single, all-per-
vading mind in them, of which man,
and even the poet's imaginative energy,
are but moments—that old dream of
the *anima mundi*, the mother of all things
and their grave, in which some had desired
to lose themselves, and others had [590
become indifferent to the distinctions of
good and evil. It would come, some-
times, like the sign of the *macrocosm* to
Faust in his cell: the network of man and
nature was seen to be pervaded by a
common, universal life: a new, bold
thought lifted him above the furrow,
above the green turf of the Westmoreland
churchyard, to a world altogether differ-
ent in its vagueness and vastness, and [600
the narrow glen was full of the brooding
power of one universal spirit.

And so he has something, also, for
those who feel the fascination of bold
speculative ideas, who are really capable
of rising upon them to conditions of
poetical thought. He uses them, indeed,
always with a very fine apprehension of
the limits within which alone philosophical
imaginings have any place in true poe- [610
try; and using them only for poetical pur-
poses, is not too careful even to make
them consistent with each other. To
him, theories which for other men bring
a world of technical diction, brought per-
fect form and expression, as in those
two lofty books of the *Prelude*, which
describe the decay and the restoration of
Imagination and Taste. Skirting the
borders of this world of bewildering [620
heights and depths, he got but the first
exciting influence of it, that joyful en-
thusiasm which great imaginative theories
prompt, when the mind first comes to
have an understanding of them; and
it is not under the influence of these
thoughts that his poetry becomes tedious
or loses its blitheness. He keeps them,
too, always within certain ethical bounds,
so that no word of his could offend the [630
simplest of those simple souls which are
always the largest portion of mankind.
But it is, nevertheless, the contact of
these thoughts, the speculative bold-
ness in them, which constitutes, at
least for some minds, the secret attrac-

tion of much of his best poetry—the sudden passage from lowly thoughts and places to the majestic forms of philosophical imagination, the play of these [640 forms over a world so different, enlarging so strangely the bounds of its humble churchyards, and breaking such a wild light on the graves of christened children.

And these moods always brought with them faultless expression. In regard to expression, as with feeling and thought, the duality of the higher and lower moods was absolute. It belonged to the higher, the imaginative mood, and was the [650 pledge of its reality, to bring the appropriate language with it. In him, when the really poetical motive worked at all, it united, with absolute justice, the word and the idea; each, in the imaginative flame, becoming inseparably one with the other, by that fusion of matter and form, which is the characteristic of the highest poetical expression. His words are themselves thought and feeling; [660 not eloquent, or musical words merely, but that sort of creative language which carries the reality of what it depicts, directly, to the consciousness.

The music of mere metre performs but a limited, yet a very peculiar and subtly ascertained function, in Wordsworth's poetry. With him, metre is but an additional grace, accessory to that deeper music of words and sounds, that [670 moving power, which they exercise in the nobler prose no less than in formal poetry. It is a sedative to that excitement, an excitement sometimes almost painful, under which the language, alike of poetry and prose, attains a rhythmical power, independent of metrical combination, and dependent rather on some subtle adjustment of the elementary sounds of words themselves to the image or feel- [680 ing they convey. Yet some of his pieces, pieces prompted by a sort of half-playful mysticism, like the *Daffodils* and *The Two April Mornings*, are distinguished by a certain quaint gaiety of metre, and rival by their perfect execution, in this respect, similar pieces among our own Elizabethan, or contemporary French poetry. And those who take up these poems after an interval of months, or [690

years perhaps, may be surprised at finding how well old favorites wear, how their strange, inventive turns of diction or thought still send through them the old feeling of surprise. Those who lived about Wordsworth were all great lovers of the older English literature, and often times there came out in him a noticeable likeness to our earlier poets. He quotes unconsciously, but with new power of [700 meaning, a clause from one of Shakespeare's sonnets; and, as with some other men's most famous work, the *Ode on the Recollections of Childhood* had its anticipator. He drew something too from the unconscious mysticism of the old English language itself, drawing out the inward significance of its racy idiom, and the not wholly unconscious poetry of the language used by the simplest people [710 under strong excitement—language, therefore, at its origin.

The office of the poet is not that of the moralist, and the first aim of Wordsworth's poetry is to give the reader a peculiar kind of pleasure. But through his poetry, and through this pleasure in it, he does actually convey to the reader an extraordinary wisdom in the things of practice. One lesson, if men must [720 have lessons, he conveys more clearly than all, the supreme importance of contemplation in the conduct of life.

Contemplation—impassioned contemplation—that is with Wordsworth the end-in-itself, the perfect end. We see the majority of mankind going most often to definite ends, lower or higher ends, as their own instincts may determine; but the end may never be attained, and [730 the means not be quite the right means, great ends and little ones alike being, for the most part, distant, and the ways to them, in this dim world, somewhat vague. Meantime, to higher or lower ends, they move too often with something of a sad countenance, with hurried and ignoble gait, becoming, unconsciously, something like thorns, in their anxiety to bear grapes; it being possible for people, [740 in the pursuit of even great ends, to become themselves thin and impoverished in spirit and temper, thus diminishing

the sum of perfection in the world, at its very sources. We understand this when it is a question of mean, or of intensely selfish ends—of Grandet, or Javert. We think it bad morality to say that the end justifies the means, and we know how false to all higher conceptions of the religious life is the type of one who is ready to do evil that good may come. We contrast with such dark, mistaken eagerness, a type like that of Saint Catherine of Siena, who made the means to her ends so attractive, that she has won for herself an undying place in the *House Beautiful*, not by her rectitude of soul only, but by its “fairness”—by those quite different qualities which commend themselves to the poet and the artist.

Yet, for most of us, the conception of means and ends covers the whole of life, and is the exclusive type or figure under which we represent our lives to ourselves. Such a figure, reducing all things to machinery, though it has on its side the authority of that old Greek moralist who has fixed for succeeding generations the outline of the theory of right living, is too like a mere picture or description of men's lives as we actually find them, to be the basis of the higher ethics. It covers the meanness of men's daily lives, and much of the dexterity and the vigor with which they pursue what may seem to them the good of themselves or of others; but not the intangible perfection of those whose ideal is rather in *being* than in *doing*—not those *manners* which are, in the deepest as in the simplest sense, *morals*, and without which one cannot so much as offer a cup of water to a poor man without offence—not the part of “antique Rachel,” sitting in the company of Beatrice; and even the moralist might well endeavor rather to withdraw men from the too exclusive consideration of means and ends, in life.

Against this predominance of machinery in our existence, Wordsworth's poetry, like all great art and poetry, is a continual protest. Justify rather the end by the means, it seems to say: whatever may become of the fruit, make sure of the flowers and the leaves. It was justly said, therefore, by one who had meditated very

profoundly on the true relation of means to ends in life, and on the distinction between what is desirable in itself and [800 what is desirable only as machinery, that when the battle which he and his friends were waging had been won, the world would need more than ever those qualities which Wordsworth was keeping alive and nourishing.

That the end of life is not action but contemplation—*being* as distinct from *doing*—a certain disposition of the mind: is, in some shape or other, the principle [810 of all the higher morality. In poetry, in art, if you enter into their true spirit at all, you touch this principle, in a measure: these, by their very sterility, are a type of beholding for the mere joy of beholding. To treat life in the spirit of art, is to make life a thing in which means and ends are identified: to encourage such treatment, the true moral significance of art and poetry. Wordsworth, [820 and other poets who have been like him in ancient or more recent times, are the masters, the experts, in this art of impassioned contemplation. Their work is, not to teach lessons, or enforce rules, or even to stimulate us to noble ends; but to withdraw the thoughts for a little while from the mere machinery of life, to fix them, with appropriate emotions, on the spectacle of those great facts in [830 man's existence which no machinery affects, “on the great and universal passions of men, the most general and interesting of their occupations, and the entire world of nature,”—on “the operations of the elements and the appearances of the visible universe, on storm and sunshine, on the revolutions of the seasons, on cold and heat, on loss of friends and kindred, on injuries and resentments, [840 on gratitude and hope, on fear and sorrow.” To witness this spectacle with appropriate emotions is the aim of all culture; and of these emotions poetry like Wordsworth's is a great nourisher and stimulant. He sees nature full of sentiment and excitement; he sees men and women as parts of nature, passionate, excited, in strange grouping and connection with the grandeur and beauty [850 of the natural world:—images, in his own

words, "of man suffering, amid awful forms and powers."

Such is the figure of the more powerful and original poet, hidden away, in part, under those weaker elements in Wordsworth's poetry, which for some minds determine their entire character; a poet somewhat bolder and more passionate than might at first sight be supposed, [860 but not too bold for true poetical taste; an unimpassioned writer, you might sometimes fancy, yet thinking the chief aim, in life and art alike, to be a certain deep emotion; seeking most often the great elementary passions in lowly places; having at least this condition of all impassioned work, that he aims always at an absolute sincerity of feeling and diction, so that he is the true fore- [870 runner of the deepest and most passionate poetry of our own day; yet going back also, with something of a protest against the conventional fervor of much of the poetry popular in his own time, to those older English poets, whose unconscious likeness often comes out in him.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
(1850-1894)

ÆS TRIPLEX

The changes wrought by death are in themselves so sharp and final, and so terrible and melancholy in their consequences, that the thing stands alone in man's experience, and has no parallel upon earth. It outdoes all other accidents because it is the last of them. Sometimes it leaps suddenly upon its victims, like a thug; sometimes it lays a regular siege and creeps upon their citadel [10 during a score of years. And when the business is done, there is sore havoc made in other people's lives, and a pin knocked out by which many subsidiary friendships hung together. There are empty chairs, solitary walks, and single beds at night. Again, in taking away our friends, death does not take them away utterly, but leaves behind a mocking, tragical, and soon intolerable residue, which must [20

be hurriedly concealed. Hence a whole chapter of sights and customs striking to the mind, from the pyramids of Egypt to the gibbets and dule trees of mediæval Europe. The poorest persons have a bit of pageant going towards the tomb; memorial stones are set up over the least memorable; and, in order to preserve some show of respect for what remains of our old loves and friendships, we must [30 accompany it with much grimly ludicrous ceremonial, and the hired undertaker parades before the door. All this, and much more of the same sort, accompanied by the eloquence of poets, has gone a great way to put humanity in error; nay, in many philosophies the error has been embodied and laid down with every circumstance of logic; although in real life the bustle and swiftness, in [40 leaving people little time to think, have not left them time enough to go dangerously wrong in practice.

As a matter of fact, although few things are spoken of with more fearful whisperings than this prospect of death, few have less influence on conduct under healthy circumstances. We have all heard of cities in South America built upon the side of fiery mountains, and how, even [50 in this tremendous neighborhood, the inhabitants are not a jot more impressed by the solemnity of mortal conditions than if they were delving gardens in the greenest corner of England. There are serenades and suppers and much gallantry among the myrtles overhead; and meanwhile the foundation shudders underfoot, the bowels of the mountain growl, and at any moment living ruin may leap [60 sky-high into the moonlight, and tumble man and his merry-making in the dust. In the eyes of very young people, and very dull old ones, there is something indescribably reckless and desperate in such a picture. It seems not credible that respectable married people, with umbrellas, should find appetite for a bit of supper within quite a long distance of a fiery mountain; ordinary life begins [70 to smell of high-handed debauch when it is carried on so close to a catastrophe; and even cheese and salad, it seems, could hardly be relished in such circumstances

without something like a defiance of the Creator. It should be a place for nobody but hermits dwelling in prayer and maceration, or mere born-devils drowning care in a perpetual carouse.

And yet, when one comes to think [80 upon it calmly, the situation of these South American citizens forms only a very pale figure for the state of ordinary mankind. This world itself, travelling blindly and swiftly in over-crowded space, among a million other worlds travelling blindly and swiftly in contrary directions, may very well come by a knock that would set it into explosion like a penny squib. And what, pathologically [90 looked at, is the human body with all its organs, but a mere bagful of petards? The least of these is as dangerous to the whole economy as the ship's powder-magazine to the ship; and with every breath we breathe, and every meal we eat, we are putting one or more of them in peril. If we clung as devotedly as some philosophers pretend we do to the abstract idea of life, or were half as frightened [100 as they make out we are, for the subversive accident that ends it all, the trumpets might sound by the hour and no one would follow them into battle—the blue-peter might fly at the truck, but who would climb into a sea-going ship? Think (if these philosophers were right) with what a preparation of spirit we should affront the daily peril of the dinner-table; a deadlier spot than any battle-field [110 in history, where the far greater proportion of our ancestors have miserably left their bones! What woman would ever be lured into marriage, so much more dangerous than the wildest sea? And what would it be to grow old? For, after a certain distance, every step we take in life we find the ice growing thinner below our feet, and all around us and behind us we see our contemporaries [120 going through. By the time a man gets well into the seventies, his continued existence is a mere miracle; and when he lays his old bones in bed for the night, there is an overwhelming probability that he will never see the day. Do the old men mind it, as a matter of fact? Why, no. They were never merrier; they have

their grog at night, and tell the raciest stories; they hear of the death of [130 people about their own age, or even younger, not as if it was a grisly warning, but with a simple childlike pleasure at having outlived some one else; and when a draught might puff them out like a guttering candle, or a bit of a stumble shatter them like so much glass, their old hearts keep sound and unaffrighted, and they go on, bubbling with laughter, through years of man's age compared [140 to which the valley at Balaclava was as safe and peaceful as a village cricket-green on Sunday. It may fairly be questioned (if we look to the peril only) whether it was a much more daring feat for Curtius to plunge into the gulf, than for any old gentleman of ninety to doff his clothes and clamber into bed.

Indeed, it is a memorable subject for consideration, with what unconcern [150 and gaiety mankind pricks on along the Valley of the Shadow of Death. The whole way is one wilderness of snares, and the end of it, for those who fear the last pinch, is irrevocable ruin. And yet we go spinning through it all, like a party for the Derby. Perhaps the reader remembers one of the humorous devices of the deified Caligula: how he encouraged a vast concourse of holiday- [160 makers on to his bridge over Baiæ bay; and when they were in the height of their enjoyment, turned loose the Prætorian guards among the company, and had them tossed into the sea. This is no bad miniature of the dealings of nature with the transitory race of man. Only, what a chequered picnic we have of it, even while it lasts! and into what great waters, not to be crossed by any swimmer, [170 God's pale Prætorian throws us over in the end!

We live the time that a match flickers; we pop the cork of a ginger-beer bottle, and the earthquake swallows us on the instant. Is it not odd, is it not incongruous, is it not, in the highest sense of human speech, incredible, that we should think so highly of the ginger-beer, and regard so little the devouring earth- [180 quake? The love of Life and the fear of Death are two famous phrases that grow

harder to understand the more we think about them. It is a well-known fact that an immense proportion of boat accidents would never happen if people held the sheet in their hands instead of making it fast; and yet, unless it be some martinet of a professional mariner or some landsman with shattered nerves, [190 every one of God's creatures makes it fast. A strange instance of man's unconcern and brazen boldness in the face of death!

We confound ourselves with metaphysical phrases, which we import into daily talk with noble inappropriateness. We have no idea of what death is, apart from its circumstances and some of its consequences to others; and although we [200 have some experience of living there is not a man on earth who has flown so high into abstraction as to have any practical guess at the meaning of the word *life*. All literature, from Job and Omar Khayyám to Thomas Carlyle or Walt Whitman, is but an attempt to look upon the human state with such largeness of view as shall enable us to rise from the consideration of living to the Déf- [210 inition of Life. And our sages give us about the best satisfaction in their power when they say that it is a vapor, or a show, or made out of the same stuff with dreams. Philosophy, in its more rigid sense, has been at the same work for ages; and after a myriad bald heads have wagged over the problem, and piles of words have been heaped one upon another into dry and cloudy volumes [220 without end, philosophy has the honor of laying before us, with modest pride, her contribution towards the subject: that life is a Permanent Possibility of Sensation. Truly a fine result! A man may very well love beef, or hunting, or a woman; but surely, surely, not a Permanent Possibility of Sensation! He may be afraid of a precipice, or a dentist, or a large enemy with a club, or even an [230 undertaker's man; but not certainly of abstract death. We may trick with the word life in its dozen senses until we are weary of tricking; we may argue in terms of all the philosophies on earth, but one fact remains true throughout—that we

do not love life, in the sense that we are greatly preoccupied about its conservation; that we do not, properly speaking, love life at all, but living. Into the [240 views of the least careful there will enter some degree of providence; no man's eyes are fixed entirely on the passing hour; but although we have some anticipation of good health, good weather, wine, active employment, love, and self-approval, the sum of these anticipations does not amount to anything like a general view of life's possibilities and issues; nor are those who cherish them most vividly [250 at all the most scrupulous of their personal safety. To be deeply interested in the accidents of our existence, to enjoy keenly the mixed texture of human experience, rather leads a man to disregard precautions, and risk his neck against a straw. For surely the love of living is stronger in an Alpine climber roping over a peril, or 'a hunter riding merrily at a stiff fence, than in a creature who [260 lives upon a diet and walks a measured distance in the interest of his constitution.

There is a great deal of very vile nonsense talked upon both sides of the matter: tearing divines reducing life to the dimensions of a mere funeral procession, so short as to be hardly decent, and melancholy unbelievers yearning for the tomb as if it were a world too [270 far away. Both sides must feel a little ashamed of their performances now and again when they draw in their chairs to dinner. Indeed, a good meal and a bottle of wine is an answer to most standard works upon the question. When a man's heart warms to his viands, he forgets a great deal of sophistry, and soars into a rosy zone of contemplation. Death may be knocking at the door, like the [280 Commander's statue; we have something else in hand, thank God, and let him knock. Passing bells are ringing all the world over. All the world over, and every hour, some one is parting company with all his aches and ecstasies. For us also the trap is laid. But we are so fond of life that we have no leisure to entertain the terror of death. It is a honeymoon with us all through, and none of the [290

longest. Small blame to us if we give our whole hearts to this glowing bride of ours, to the appetites, to honor, to the hungry curiosity of the mind, to the pleasure of the eyes in nature, and the pride of our own nimble bodies.

We all of us appreciate the sensations; but as for caring about the Permanence of the Possibility, a man's head is generally very bald, and his senses very dull, [300 before he comes to that. Whether we regard life as a lane leading to a dead wall—a mere bag's end, as the French say—or whether we think of it as a vestibule or gymnasium, where we wait our turn and prepare our faculties for some more noble destiny; whether we thunder in a pulpit, or pule in little atheistic poetry-books, about its vanity and brevity; whether we look justly for years [310 of health and vigor, or are about to mount into a Bath-chair, as a step towards the hearse; in each and all of these views and situations there is but one conclusion possible: that a man should stop his ears against paralysing terror, and run the race that is set before him with a single mind. No one surely could have recoiled with more heartache and terror from the thought of death than our re- [320 spected lexicographer; and yet we know how little it affected his conduct, how wisely and boldly he walked, and in what a fresh and lively vein he spoke of life. Already an old man, he ventured on his Highland tour; and his heart, bound with triple brass, did not recoil before twenty-seven individual cups of tea. As courage and intelligence are the two qualities best worth a good [330 man's cultivation, so it is the first part of intelligence to recognize our precarious estate in life, and the first part of courage to be not at all abashed before the fact. A frank and somewhat headlong carriage, not looking too anxiously before, not dallying in maudlin regret over the past, stamps the man who is well armored for this world.

And not only well armored for him- [340 self, but a good friend and a good citizen to boot. We do not go to cowards for tender dealing; there is nothing so cruel as panic; the man who has least fear for

his own carcass, has most time to consider others. That eminent chemist who took his walks abroad in tin shoes, and subsisted wholly upon tepid milk, had all his work cut out for him in considerate dealings with his own digestion. So [350 soon as prudence has begun to grow up in the brain, like a dismal fungus, it finds its first expression in a paralysis of generous acts. The victim begins to shrink spiritually; he develops a fancy for parlors with a regulated temperature, and takes his morality on the principle of tin shoes and tepid milk. The care of one important body or soul becomes so engrossing, that all the noises of the [360 outer world begin to come thin and faint into the parlor with the regulated temperature; and the tin shoes go equably forward over blood and rain. To be otherwise is to ossify; and the scruple-monger ends by standing stockstill. Now the man who has his heart on his sleeve, and a good whirling weathercock of a brain, who reckons his life as a thing to be dashingly used and cheerfully haz- [370 arded, makes a very different acquaintance of the world, keeps all his pulses going true and fast, and gathers impetus as he runs, until, if he be running towards anything better than wildfire, he may shoot up and become a constellation in the end. Lord, look after his health, Lord, have a care of his soul, says he; and he has at the key of the position, and smashes through incongruity and peril towards [380 his aim. Death is on all sides of him with pointed batteries, as he is on all sides of all of us; unfortunate surprises gird him round; mim-mouthed friends and relations hold up their hands in quite a little elegiacal synod about his path: and what cares he for all this? Being a true lover of living, a fellow with something pushing and spontaneous in his inside, he must, like any other soldier, in any other [390 stirring, deadly warfare, push on at his best pace until he touch the goal. "A peerage or Westminster Abbey!" cried Nelson in his bright, boyish, heroic manner. These are great incentives; not for any of these, but for the plain satisfaction of living, of being about their business in some sort or other, do the

brave, serviceable men of every nation tread down the nettle danger, and [400 pass flyingly over all the stumbling-blocks of prudence. Think of the heroism of Johnson, think of that superb indifference to mortal limitation that set him upon his dictionary, and carried him through triumphantly until the end! Who, if he were wisely considerate of things at large, would ever embark upon any work much more considerable than a half-penny post-card? Who would project [410 a serial novel, after Thackeray and Dickens had each fallen in mid-course? Who would find heart enough to begin to live, if he dallied with the consideration of death?

And, after all, what sorry and pitiful quibbling all this is! To forego all the issues of living in a parlor with a regulated temperature—as if that were not to die a hundred times over, and for [420 ten years at a stretch! As if it were not to die in one's own lifetime, and without even the sad immunities of death! As if it were not to die, and yet be the patient spectators of our own pitiable change! The Permanent Possibility is preserved, but the sensations carefully held at arm's length, as if one kept a photographic plate in a dark chamber. It is better to lose health like a spendthrift than to [430 waste it like a miser. It is better to live and be done with it, than to die daily in the sick-room. By all means begin your folio; even if the doctor does not give you a year, even if he hesitates about a month, make one brave push and see what can be accomplished in a week. It is not only in finished undertakings that we ought to honor useful labor. A spirit goes out of the man who means [440 execution, which outlives the most untimely ending. All who have meant good work with their whole hearts, have done good work, although they may die before they have the time to sign it. Every heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world, and bettered the tradition of mankind. And even if death catch people, like an open pitfall, and in [450 mid-career, laying out vast projects, and planning monstrous foundations, flushed

with hope, and their mouths full of boastful language, they should be at once tripped up and silenced: is there not something brave and spirited in such a termination? and does not life go down with a better grace, foaming in full body over a precipice, than miserably straggling to an end in sandy deltas? [460 When the Greeks made their fine saying that those whom the gods love die young, I cannot help believing they had this sort of death also in their eye. For surely, at whatever age it overtake the man, this is to die young. Death has not been suffered to take so much as an illusion from his heart. In the hot-fit of life, a-tiptoe on the highest point of being, he passes at a bound on to the other [470 side. The noise of the mallet and chisel is scarcely quenched, the trumpets are hardly done blowing, when, trailing with him clouds of glory, this happy-starred, full-blooded spirit shoots into the spiritual land.

ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE (1837–1909)

THE GARDEN OF PROSERPINE

Here, where the world is quiet,
Here, where all trouble seems
Dead winds' and spent waves' riot
In doubtful dreams of dreams;
I watch the green field growing 5
For reaping folk and sowing,
For harvest-time and mowing,
A sleepy world of streams.

I am tired of tears and laughter,
And men that laugh and weep; 10
Of what may come hereafter
For men that sow to reap:
I am weary of days and hours,
Blown buds of barren flowers,
Desires and dreams and powers 15
And everything but sleep.

Here life has death for neighbor,
And far from eye or ear
Wan waves and wet winds labor,
Weak ships and spirits steer; 20

They drive adrift, and whither
They wot not who make thither;
But no such winds blow hither,
And no such things grow here.

No growth of moor or coppice, 25
No heather-flower or vine,
But bloomless buds of poppies,
Green grapes of Prosperine,
Pale beds of blowing rushes,
Where no leaf blooms or blushes 30
Save this whereout she crushes
For dead men deadly wine.

Pale, without name or number,
In fruitless fields of corn,
They bow themselves and slumber 35
All night till light is born;
And like a soul belated,
In hell and heaven unmated,
By cloud and mist abated
Comes out of darkness morn. 40

Though one were strong as seven,
He too with death shall dwell,
Nor wake with wings in heaven,
Nor weep for pains in hell;
Though one were fair as roses, 45
His beauty clouds and closes;
And well though love reposes,
In the end it is not well.

Pale, beyond porch and portal,
Crowned with calm leaves, she stands
Who gathers all things mortal 51
With cold immortal hands;
Her languid lips are sweeter
Than love's who fears to greet her,
To men that mix and meet her 55
From many times and lands.

She waits for each and other,
She waits for all men born;
Forgets the earth her mother,
The life of fruits and corn; 60
And spring and seed and swallow
Take wing for her and follow
Where summer song rings hollow
And flowers are put to scorn.

There go the loves that wither, 65
The old loves with wearier wings;
And all dead years draw thither,
And all disastrous things;

Dead dreams of days forsaken,
Blind buds that snows have shaken, 70
Wild leaves that winds have taken,
Red strays of ruined springs.

We are not sure of sorrow;
And joy was never sure;
To-day will die to-morrow; 75
Time stoops to no man's lure;
And love, grown faint and fretful,
With lips but half regretful
Sighs, and with eyes forgetful
Weeps that no loves endure. 80

From too much love of living,
From hope and fear set free,
We thank with brief thanksgiving
Whatever gods may be 85
That no life lives for ever;
That dead men rise up never;
That even the weariest river
Winds somewhere safe to sea.

Then star nor sun shall waken,
Nor any change of light: 90
Nor sound of waters shaken,
Nor any sound or sight:
Nor wintry leaves nor vernal,
Nor days nor things diurnal;
Only the sleep eternal 95
In an eternal night.

CHORUSES *From* ATALANTA IN CALYDON

THE HOUNDS OF SPRING

When the hounds of spring are on winter's
traces,
The mother of months in meadow or
plain
Fills the shadows and windy places
With lisp of leaves and ripple of rain;
And the brown bright nightingale amo-
rous 5
Is half assuaged for Itylus,
For the Thracian ships and the foreign
faces,
The tongueless vigil, and all the pain.

Come with bows bent and with emptying
of quivers,
Maiden most perfect, lady of light, 10

With a noise of winds and many rivers,
 With clamor of waters, and with might;
 Bind on thy sandals, O thou most fleet,
 Over the splendor and speed of thy feet;
 For the faint east quickens, the wan west
 shivers, 15
 Round the feet of the day and the feet
 of the night.

Where shall we find her, how shall we sing
 to her,
 Fold our hands round her knees, and
 cling?
 O that man's heart were as fire and could
 spring to her,
 Fire, or the strength of the streams that
 spring! 20
 For the stars and the winds are unto her
 As raiment, as songs of the harp-player;
 For the risen stars and the fallen cling
 to her,
 And the southwest-wind, and the west-
 wind sing.

For winter's rains and ruins are over, 25
 And all the season of snows and sins;
 The days dividing lover and lover,
 The light that loses, the night that wins;
 And time remembered is grief forgotten, 30
 And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
 And in green underwood and cover
 Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

The full streams feed on flower of rushes,
 Ripe grasses trammel a traveling foot,
 The faint fresh flame of the young year
 flushes 35
 From leaf to flower and flower to fruit;
 And fruit and leaf are as gold and fire,
 And the oat is heard above the lyre,
 And the hoofèd heel of a satyr crushes
 The chestnut-husk at the chestnut-
 root. 40

And Pan by noon and Bacchus by night,
 Fleeter of foot than the fleet-foot kid,
 Follows with dancing and fills with de-
 light
 The Mænad and the Bassarid;
 And soft as lips that laugh and hide 45
 The laughing leaves of the trees divide,
 And screen from seeing and leave in
 sight
 The god pursuing, the maiden hid.

The ivy falls with the Bacchanal's hair
 Over her eyebrows hiding her eyes; 50
 The wild vine slipping down leaves bare
 Her bright breast shortening into sighs;
 The wild vine slips with the weight of its
 leaves,
 But the berried ivy catches and cleaves
 To the limbs that glitter, the feet that
 scare 55
 The wolf that follows, the fawn that flies.

BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF YEARS

Before the beginning of years
 There came to the making of man
 Time, with a gift of tears;
 Grief, with a glass that ran;
 Pleasure, with pain for leaven; 5
 Summer, with flowers that fell;
 Remembrance fallen from heaven,
 And madness risen from hell;
 Strength without hands to smite;
 Love that endures for a breath; 10
 Night, the shadow of light,
 And life, the shadow of death.
 And the high gods took in hand
 Fire, and the falling of tears,
 And a measure of sliding sand 15
 From under the feet of the years;
 And froth and drift of the sea;
 And dust of the laboring earth;
 And bodies of things to be
 In the houses of death and of birth; 20
 And wrought with weeping and laughter,
 And fashioned with loathing and love,
 With life before and after
 And death beneath and above,
 For a day and a night and a morrow, 25
 That his strength might endure for a
 span
 With travail and heavy sorrow,
 The holy spirit of man.

From the winds of the north and the
 south
 They gathered as unto strife; 30
 They breathed upon his mouth,
 They filled his body with life;
 Eyesight and speech they wrought
 For the veils of the soul therein,
 A time for labor and thought, 35
 A time to serve and to sin;
 They gave him light in his ways,
 And love, and a space for delight,

And beauty and length of days,
 And night, and sleep in the night. 40
 His speech is a burning fire;
 With his lips he travaileth;
 In his heart is a blind desire,
 In his eyes foreknowledge of death;
 He weaves, and is clothed with de-
 rision; 45
 Sows, and he shall not reap;
 His life is a watch or a vision
 Between a sleep and a sleep.

A MATCH

If love were what the rose is,
 And I were like the leaf,
 Our lives would grow together
 In sad or singing weather,
 Blown fields or flowerful closes, 5
 Green pleasure or gray grief;
 If love were what the rose is,
 And I were like the leaf.

If I were what the words are,
 And love were like the tune,
 With double sound and single
 Delight our lips would mingle,
 With kisses glad as birds are
 That get sweet rain at noon;
 If I were what the words are, 10
 And love were like the tune.

If you were life, my darling,
 And I your love were death,
 We'd shine and snow together
 Ere March made sweet the weather 20
 With daffodil and starling
 And hours of fruitful breath;
 If you were life, my darling,
 And I your love were death.

If you were thrall to sorrow, 25
 And I were page to joy,
 We'd play for lives and seasons
 With loving looks and treasons
 And tears of night and morrow
 And laughs of maid and boy; 30
 If you were thrall to sorrow,
 And I were page to joy.

If you were April's lady,
 And I were lord in May,
 We'd throw with leaves for hours 35
 And draw for days with flowers,

Till day like night were shady
 And night were bright like day;
 If you were April's lady,
 And I were lord in May. 40

If you were queen of pleasure,
 And I were king of pain,
 We'd hunt down love together,
 Pluck out his flying-feather, 45
 And teach his feet a measure,
 And find his mouth a rein;
 If you were queen of pleasure,
 And I were king of pain.

TO WALT WHITMAN IN AMERICA

Send but a song oversea for us,
 Heart of their hearts who are free,
 Heart of their singer, to be for us
 More than our singing can be;
 Ours, in the tempest at error, 5
 With no light but the twilight of terror;
 Send us a song oversea!

Sweet-smelling of pine-leaves and grasses,
 And blown as a tree through and through
 With the winds of the keen mountain-
 passes, 10
 And tender as sun-smitten dew;
 Sharp-tongued as the winter that shakes
 The wastes of your limitless lakes,
 Wide-eyed as the sea-line's blue.

O strong-winged soul with prophetic 15
 Lips hot with the bloodbeats of song,
 With tremor of heartstrings magnetic
 With thoughts as thunders in throng,
 With consonant ardors of chords
 That pierce men's souls as with swords 20
 And hale them hearing along,

Make us too music, to be with us
 As a word from a world's heart warm,
 To sail the dark as a sea with us,
 Full-sailed, outsinging the storm, 25
 A song to put fire in our ears
 Whose burning shall burn up tears
 Whose sign bid battle reform;

A note in the ranks of a clarion,
 A word in the wind of cheer, 30
 To consume as with lightning the carrion
 That makes time foul for us here:

- In the air that our dead things infest
A blast of the breath of the west,
Till east way as west way is clear. 35
- Out of the sun beyond sunset,
From the evening whence morning shall
be,
With the rollers in measureless onset,
With the van of the storming sea,
With the world-wide wind, with the
breath 40
That breaks ships driven upon death,
With the passion of all things free,
- With the sea-steeds footless and frantic,
White myriads for death to bestride
In the charge of the ruining Atlantic, 45
Where deaths by regiments ride,
With clouds and clamors of waters,
With a long note shriller than slaughter's
On the furrowless fields world-wide,
- With terror, with ardor and wonder, 50
With the soul of the season that wakes
When the weight of a whole year's thunder
In the tidestream of autumn breaks,
Let the flight of the wide-winged word
Come over, come in and be heard, 55
Take form and fire for our sakes.
- For a continent bloodless with travail
Here toils and brawls as it can,
And the web of it who shall unravel
Of all that peer on the plan; 60
Would fain grow men, but they grow
not,
And fain be free, but they know not
One name for freedom and man.
- One name, not twain, for division;
One thing, not twain, from the birth; 65
Spirit and substance and vision,
Worth more than worship is worth;
Unbeheld, unadored, undivined,
The cause, the center, the mind,
The secret and sense of the earth. 70
- Here as a weakling in irons,
Here as a weanling in bands,
As a prey that the stake-net environs,
Our life that we looked for stands;
And the man-child naked and dear, 75
Democracy, turns on us here
Eyes trembling with tremulous hands.
- It sees not what season shall bring to it
Sweet fruit of its bitter desire;
Few voices it hears yet sing to it, 80
Few pulses of hearts reaspire;
Foresees not time, nor forehears
The noises of imminent years,
Earthquake, and thunder, and fire: 84
- When crowned and weaponed and curb-
less
It shall walk without helm or shield
The bare burnt furrows and herbless
Of war's last flame-stricken field,
Till godlike, equal with time,
It stand in the sun sublime, 90
In the godhead of man revealed.
- Round your people and over them
Light like raiment is drawn,
Close as a garment to cover them
Wrought not of mail nor of lawn; 95
Here, with hope hardly to wear,
Naked nations and bare
Swim, sink, strike out for the dawn.
- Chains are here, and a prison,
Kings, and subjects, and shame; 100
If the God upon you be arisen,
How should our songs be the same?
How, in confusion of change,
How shall we sing, in a strange
Land, songs praising his name? 105
- God is buried and dead to us,
Even the spirit of earth,
Freedom; so have they said to us
Some with mocking and mirth,
Some with heartbreak and tears; 110
And a God without eyes, without ears,
Who shall sing of him, dead in the
birth?
- The earth-god Freedom, the lonely
Face lightening, the footprint unshod,
Not as one man crucified only, 115
Nor scourged with but one life's rod;
The soul that is substance of nations,
Reincarnate with fresh generations;
The great god Man, which is God.
- But in weariest of years and obscurest 120
Doth it live not at heart of all things,
The one God and one spirit, a purest
Life, fed from unstanchable springs?

Within love, within hatred it is,
And its seed in the stripe as the kiss, 125
And in slaves is the germ, and in
kings.

Freedom we call it, for holier
Name of the soul's there is none;
Surelier it labors, if slower,
Than the meters of star or of sun; 130
Slower than life into breath,
Surelier than time into death,
It moves till its labor be done.

Till the motion be done and the measure
Circling through season and clime, 135
Slumber and sorrow and pleasure,
Vision of virtue and crime;
Till consummate with conquering eyes,
A soul disembodied, it rise
From the body transfigured of time. 140

Till it rise and remain and take station
With the stars of the worlds that re-
joice;
Till the voice of its heart's exultation
Be as theirs an invariable voice;
By no discord of evil estranged, 145
By no pause, by no breach in it changed,
By no clash in the chord of its choice.

It is one with the world's generations,
With the spirit, the star, and the sod;
With the kingless and king-stricken na-
tions, 150
With the cross, and the chain, and the
rod;
The most high, the most secret, most
lonely,
The earth-soul Freedom, that only
Lives, and that only is God.

AFTER SUNSET

If light of life outlive the set of sun
That men call death and end of all things,
then
How should not that which life held best
for men
And proved most precious, though it
seem undone
By force of death and woful victory won, 5
Be first and surest of revival, when
Death shall bow down to life arisen again?

So shall the soul seen be the self-same
one
That looked and spake with even such
lips and eyes
As love shall doubt not then to recognize,
And all bright thoughts and smiles of all
time past 11
Revive, transfigured, but in spirit and
sense
None other than we knew, for evidence
That love's last mortal word was not his
last.

ON THE DEATHS OF THOMAS
CARLYLE AND GEORGE ELIOT

Two souls diverse out of our human sight
Pass, followed one with love and each with
wonder:
The stormy sophist with his mouth of
thunder,
Clothed with loud words and mantled in
the might
Of darkness and magnificence of night; 5
And one whose eye could smite the night
in sunder,
Searching if light or no light were there-
under,
And found in love of loving-kindness light.
Duty divine and Thought with eyes of
fire
Still following Righteousness with deep
desire 10
Shone sole and stern before her and above,
Sure stars and sole to steer by; but more
sweet
Shone lower the loveliest lamp for earthly
feet,—
The light of little children, and their love.

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE

Crowned, girdled, garbed, and shod with
light and fire,
Son first-born of the morning, sovereign
star!
Soul nearest ours of all, that wert most
far,
Most far off in the abysm of time, thy
lyre
Hung highest above the dawn-enkindled
quire 5

Where all ye sang together, all that are,
And all the starry songs behind thy car
Rang sequence, all our souls acclaim thee
sire.

"If all the pens that ever poets held
Had fed the feeling of their masters'
thoughts," 10

And as with rush of hurtling chariots
The flight of all their spirits were impelled
Toward one great end, thy glory—nay, not
then,
Not yet might'st thou be praised enough of
men.

BEN JONSON

Broad-based, broad-fronted, bounteous,
multiform,
With many a valley impleached with ivy
and vine,
Wherein the springs of all the streams
run wine,
And many a crag full-faced against the
storm,
The mountain where thy Muse's feet
made warm 5
Those lawns that revelled with her dance
divine
Shines yet with fire as it was wont to
shine
From tossing torches round the dance
a-swarm.
Nor less, high-stationed on the gray grave
heights,
High-thoughted seers with heaven's heart-
kindling lights 10
Hold converse: and the herd of meaner
things
Knows or by fiery scourge or fiery shaft
When wrath on thy broad brows has risen,
and laughed
Darkening thy soul with shadow of thun-
derous wings.

GEORGE MEREDITH (1828-1909)

LOVE IN THE VALLEY

Under yonder beech-tree single on the
greensward,
Couched with her arms behind her
golden head,
Knees and tresses folded to slip and
ripple idly,

Lies my young love sleeping in the
shade.

Had I the heart to slide an arm beneath
her,

Press her parting lips as her waist I
gather slow, 5

Waking in amazement she could not but
embrace me:

Then would she hold me and never let
me go?

Shy as the squirrel and wayward as the
swallow,

Swift as the swallow along the river's
light, 10

Circling the surface to meet his mirrored
winglets,

Fleeter she seems in her stay than in her
flight.

Shy as the squirrel that leaps among the
pine-tops,

Wayward as the swallow overhead at set
of sun,

She whom I love is hard to catch and
conquer; 15

Hard, but oh, the glory of the winning
were she won!

When her mother tends her before the
laughing mirror,

Tying up her laces, looping up her hair,
Often she thinks, were this wild thing
wedded,

More love should I have, and much less
care. 20

When her mother tends her before the
lighted mirror,

Loosening her laces, combing down her
curls,

Often she thinks, were this wild thing
wedded,

I should miss but one for many boys and
girls.

Heartless she is as the shadow in the
meadows 25

Flying to the hills on a blue and breezy
noon.

No, she is athirst and drinking up her
wonder;

Earth to her is young as the slip of the
new moon.

Deals she an unkindness, 'tis but her rapid
measure,

Even as in a dance; and her smile can
 heal no less: 30
 Like the swinging May-cloud that pelts
 the flowers with hailstones
 Off a sunny border, she was made to
 bruise and bless.

Lovely are the curves of the white owl
 sweeping

Wavy in the dusk lit by one large star.
 Lone on the fir-branch, his rattle-note un-
 varied, 35

Brooding o'er the gloom, spins the brown
 evejar.

Darker grows the valley, more and more
 forgetting:

So were it with me if forgetting could be
 willed.

Tell the grassy hollow that holds the bub-
 bling well-spring,

Tell it to forget the source that keeps it
 filled. 40

Stepping down the hill with her fair com-
 panions,

Arm in arm, all against the raying West,
 Boldly she sings, to the merry tune she
 marches,

Brave is her shape, and sweeter un-
 possessed.

Sweeter, for she is what my heart first
 awaking 45

Whispered the world was; morning light
 is she.

Love that so desires would fain keep her
 changeless;

Fain would fling the net, and fain have
 her free.

Happy, happy time, when the white star
 hovers

Low over dim fields fresh with bloomy
 dew, 50

Near the face of dawn, that draws athwart
 the darkness,

Threading it with color, like yewberries
 the yew.

Thicker crowd the shades as the grave
 East deepens

Glowing, and with crimson a long cloud
 swells.

Maiden still the morn is; and strange she
 is, and secret; 55

Strange her eyes; her cheeks are cold as
 cold sea-shells.

Sunrays, leaning on our southern hills and
 lighting

Wild cloud-mountains that drag the
 hills along,

Oft ends the day of your shifting brilliant
 laughter

Chill as a dull face frowning on a song. 60

Ay, but shows the South-west a ripple-
 feathered bosom

Blown to silver while the clouds are
 shaken and ascend,

Scaling the mid-heavens as they stream,
 there comes a sunset

Rich, deep like love in beauty without
 end.

When at dawn she sighs, and like an in-
 fant to the window 65

Turns grave eyes craving light, released
 from dreams,

Beautiful she looks, like a white water-
 lily,

Bursting out of bud in havens of the
 streams.

When from bed she rises clothed from neck
 to ankle

In her long nightgown sweet as boughs
 of May, 70

Beautiful she looks, like a tall garden-
 lily,

Pure from the night, and splendid for
 the day.

Mother of the dews, dark eye-lashed twi-
 light,

Low-lidded twilight, o'er the valley's
 brim,

Rounding on thy breast sings the dew-
 delighted skylark, 75

Clear as though the dew-drops had their
 voice in him.

Hidden where the rose-flush drinks the
 rayless planet,

Fountain-full he pours the spraying
 fountain-showers.

Let me hear her laughter, I would have her
 ever

Cool as dew in twilight, the lark above
 the flowers. 80

All the girls are out with their baskets for
 the primrose;

Up lanes, woods through, they troop in
 joyful bands.

My sweet leads: she knows not why, but
 now she loiters,
 Eyes the bent anemones, and hangs her
 hands.
 Such a look will tell that the violets are
 peeping, 85
 Coming the rose; and unaware a cry
 Springs in her bosom for odors and for
 color,
 Covert and the nightingale; she knows
 not why.

Kerchiefed head and chin she darts be-
 tween her tulips,
 Streaming like a willow gray in arrowy
 rain: 90
 Some bend beaten cheek to gravel, and
 their angel
 She will be; she lifts them, and on she
 speeds again.
 Black the driving raincloud breasts the
 iron gateway;
 She is forth to cheer a neighbor lacking
 mirth.
 So when sky and grass met rolling dumb
 for thunder 95
 Saw I once a white dove, sole light of
 earth.

Prim little scholars are the flowers of her
 garden,
 Trained to stand in rows, and asking
 if they please.
 I might love them well but for loving more
 the wild ones;
 O my wild ones! they tell me more than
 these. 100
 You, my wild one, you tell of honied field-
 rose,
 Violet, blushing eglantine in life; and
 even as they,
 They by the wayside are earnest of your
 goodness,
 You are of life's on the banks that line
 the way.

Peering at her chamber the white crowns
 the red rose, 105
 Jasmine winds the porch with stars two
 and three.
 Parted is the window; she sleeps; the
 starry jasmine
 Breathes a falling breath that carries
 thoughts of me.

Sweeter unpossessed, have I said of her my
 sweetest?
 Not while she sleeps: while she sleeps the
 jasmine breathes, 110
 Luring her to love; she sleeps; the starry
 jasmine
 Bears me to her pillow under white
 rose-wreaths.

Yellow with birdfoot-trefoil are the grass-
 glades;
 Yellow with cinquefoil of the dew-gray
 leaf;
 Yellow with stonecrop; the moss-mounds
 are yellow; 115
 Blue-necked the wheat sways, yellowing
 to the sheaf.
 Green-yellow, bursts from the copse the
 laughing yaffle,
 Sharp as a sickle is the edge of shade
 and shine:
 Earth in her heart laughs looking at the
 heavens,
 Thinking of the harvest: I look and
 think of mine. 120

This I may know: her dressing and un-
 dressing
 Such a change of light shows as when
 the skies in sport
 Shift from cloud to moonlight; or edging
 over thunder
 Slips a ray of sun; or sweeping into
 port
 White sails furl; or on the ocean bor-
 ders 125
 White sails lean along the waves leaping
 green.
 Visions of her shower before me, but
 from eyesight
 Guarded she would be like the sun were
 she seen.

Front door and back of the mossed old
 farmhouse
 Open with the morn, and in a breezy
 link 130
 Freshly sparkles garden to stripe-
 shadowed orchard,
 Green across a rill where on sand the
 minnows wink.
 Busy in the grass the early sun of summer
 Swarms, and the blackbird's mellow
 fluting notes

Call my darling up with round and roguish
challenge: 135
Quaintest, richest carol of all the sing-
ing throats!

Cool was the woodside; cool as her white
dairy

Keeping sweet the cream-pan; and there
the boys from school,

Cricketing below, rushed brown and red
with sunshine;

O the dark translucence of the deep-
eyed cool! 140

Spying from the farm, herself she fetched
a pitcher

Full of milk, and tilted for each in turn
the beak.

Then a little fellow, mouth up and on tip-
toe,

Said, "I will kiss you:" she laughed, and
leaned her cheek.

Doves of the fir-wood walling high our
red roof 145

Through the long noon coo, crooning
through the coo.

Loose droop the leaves, and down the
sleepy roadway

Sometimes pipes a chaffinch; loose
droops the blue.

Cows flap a slow tail knee-deep in the
river,

Breathless, given up to sun and gnat and
fly, 150

Nowhere is she seen; and if I see her no-
where,

Lightning may come, straight rains and
tiger sky.

O the golden sheaf, the rustling treasure-
armful!

O the nutbrown tresses nodding inter-
laced!

O the treasure-tresses one another over 155
Nodding! O the girdle slack about the
waist!

Slain are the poppies that shot their
random scarlet

Quick amid the wheat-ears: wound
about the waist,

Gathered, see these brides of Earth one
blush of ripeness!

O the nutbrown tresses nodding inter-
laced! 160

Large and smoky red the sun's cold disk
drops,

Clipped by naked hills, on violet shaded
snow:

Eastward large and still lights up a bower
of moonrise,

Whence at her leisure steps the moon
aglow.

Nightlong on black print-branches our
beech-tree 165

Gazes in this whiteness: nightlong could
I.

Here may life on death or death on life be
painted.

Let me clasp her soul to know she can-
not die!

Gossips count her faults! they scour a nar-
row chamber

Where there is no window, read not
heaven or her. 170

"When she was a tiny," one aged woman
quavers,

Plucks at my heart and leads me by the
ear.

Faults she had once as she learned to run
and tumbled:

Faults of feature some see, beauty not
complete.

Yet, good gossips, beauty that makes
holy 175

Earth and air, may have faults from
head to feet.

Hither she comes; she comes to me; she
lingers,

Deepens her brown eyebrows, while in
new surprise

High rise the lashes in wonder of a stran-
ger;

Yet am I the light and living of her
eyes. 180

Something friends have told her fills her
heart to brimming,

Nets her in her blushes, and wounds her,
and tames.—

Sure of her haven, O like a dove alighting,
Arms up, she dropped; our souls were in
our names.

Soon will she lie like a white frost sun-
rise. 185

Yellow oats and brown wheat, barley
pale as rye,

Long since your sheaves have yielded to
the thresher,
Felt the girdle loosened, seen the tresses
fly.

Soon will she lie like a blood-red sun-
set.

Swift with the to-morrow, green-winged
Spring! 190

Sing from the South-west, bring her back
the truants,
Nightingale and swallow, song and dip-
ping wing.

Soft new beech-leaves, up to beamy April
Spreading bough on bough a primrose
mountain, you,

Lucid in the moon, raise lilies to the sky-
fields, 195

Youngest green transfused in silver shin-
ing through:

Fairer than the lily, than the wild white
cherry:

Fair as in image my seraph love ap-
pears

Borne to me by dreams when dawn is at
my eyelids;

Fair as in the flesh she swims to me on
tears. 200

Could I find a place to be alone with
heaven,

I would speak my heart out: heaven is
my need.

Every woodland tree is flushing like the
dogwood,

Flashing like the whitebeam, swaying
like the reed.

Flushing like the dogwood crimson in
October; 205

Streaming like the flag-reed south-west
blown;

Flashing as in gusts the sudden-lighted
whitebeam:

All seem to know what is for heaven
alone.

JUGGLING JERRY

Pitch here the tent, while the old horse
grazes:

By the old hedge-side we'll halt a stage.
It's nigh my last above the daisies:

My next leaf'll be man's blank page.

Yes, my old girl! and it's no use crying: 5
Juggler, constable, king, must bow.
One that outjuggles all's been spying
Long to have me, and he has me now.

We've travelled times to this old common:

Often we've hung our pots in the gorse.

We've had a stirring life, old woman, 11

You, and I, and the old gray horse.

Races, and fairs, and royal occasions,

Found us coming to their call:

Now they'll miss us at our stations: 15

There's a Juggler outjuggles all!

Up goes the lark, as if all were jolly!

Over the duck-pond the willow shakes.

Easy to think that grieving's folly,

When the hand's firm as driven:
stakes!

Ay, when we're strong, and braced, and
manful, 21

Life's a sweet fiddle: but we're a
batch

Born to become the Great Juggler's
han'ful:

Balls he shies up, and is safe to catch.

Here's where the lads of the village
cricket: 25

I was a lad not wide from here:

Couldn't I whip off the bale from the
wicket?

Like an old world those days appear!

Donkey, sheep, geese, and thatched ale-
house—I know them!

They are old friends of my halts, and
seem, 30

Somehow, as if kind thanks I owe them:

Juggling don't hinder the heart's es-
teem.

Juggling's no sin, for we must have
victual:

Nature allows us to bait for the fool.

Holding one's own makes us juggle no
little; 35

But, to increase it, hard juggling's the
rule.

You that are sneering at my profession,

Haven't you juggled a vast amount?

There's the Prime Minister, in one Ses-
sion,

Juggles more games than my sins'll
count. 40

I've murdered insects with mock thunder:
 Conscience, for that, in men don't quail.
 I've made bread from the bump of wonder:
 That's my business, and there's my tale.
 Fashion and rank all praised the profes-
 sor: 45

Ay! and I've had my smile from the
 Queen: 46
 Bravo, Jerry! she meant: God bless her!
 Ain't this a sermon on that scene?

I've studied men from my topsy-turvy
 Close, and, I reckon, rather true. 50
 Some are fine fellows: some, right scurvy:
 Most, a dash between the two.

But it's a woman, old girl, that makes me
 Think more kindly of the race:
 And it's a woman, old girl, that shakes
 me 55
 When the Great Juggler I must face.

We two were married, due and legal:
 Honest we've lived since we've been
 one.

Lord! I could then jump like an eagle:
 You danced bright as a bit o' the sun. 60
 Birds in a May-bush we were! right merry!
 All night we kissed, we juggled all day.
 Joy was the heart of Juggling Jerry!
 Now from his old girl he's juggled away.

It's past parsons to console us: 65
 No, nor no doctor fetch for me:
 I can die without my bolus;
 Two of a trade, lass, never agree!
 Parson and Doctor!—don't they love
 rarely,
 Fighting the devil in other men's
 fields! 70
 Stand up yourself and match him fairly:
 Then see how the rascal yields!

I, lass, have lived no gipsy, flaunting
 Finery while his poor helpmate grubs:
 Coin I've stored, and you won't be want-
 ing: 75
 You shan't beg from the troughs and
 tubs.
 Nobly you've stuck to me, though in
 his kitchen
 Many a Marquis would hail you Cook!
 Palaces you could have ruled and grown
 rich in,
 But your old Jerry you never forsook. 80

Hand up the chirper!¹ ripe ale winks in
 it;

Let's have comfort and be at peace.
 Once a stout draught made me light as a
 linnet.

Cheer up! the Lord must have his lease.
 May be—for none see in that black
 hollow— 85

It's just a place where we're held in
 pawn,
 And, when the Great Juggler makes as to
 swallow,

It's just the sword-trick—I ain't quite
 gone.

Yonder came smells of the gorse, so nutty,
 Gold-like and warm: it's the prime of
 May. 90

Better than mortar, brick, and putty,
 Is God's house on a blowing day.
 Lean me more up the mound; now I feel
 it:

All the old heath-smells! Ain't it
 strange?

There's the world laughing, as if to con-
 ceal it, 95
 But He's by us, juggling the change.

I mind it well, by the sea-beach lying,
 Once—it's long gone—when two gulls
 we beheld,

Which, as the moon got up, were flying
 Down a big wave that sparkled and
 swelled. 100

Crack went a gun: one fell: the second
 Wheeled round him twice, and was off
 for new luck:

There in the dark her white wing beck-
 oned:—

Drop me a kiss—I'm the bird dead-
 struck!

LUCIFER IN STARLIGHT

On a starred night Prince Lucifer uprose.
 Tired of his dark dominion, swung the
 fiend

Above the rolling ball in cloud part
 screened,

Where sinners hugged their specter of
 repose.

Poor prey to his hot fit of pride were those. 5

¹ "chirping," or cheering, cup.

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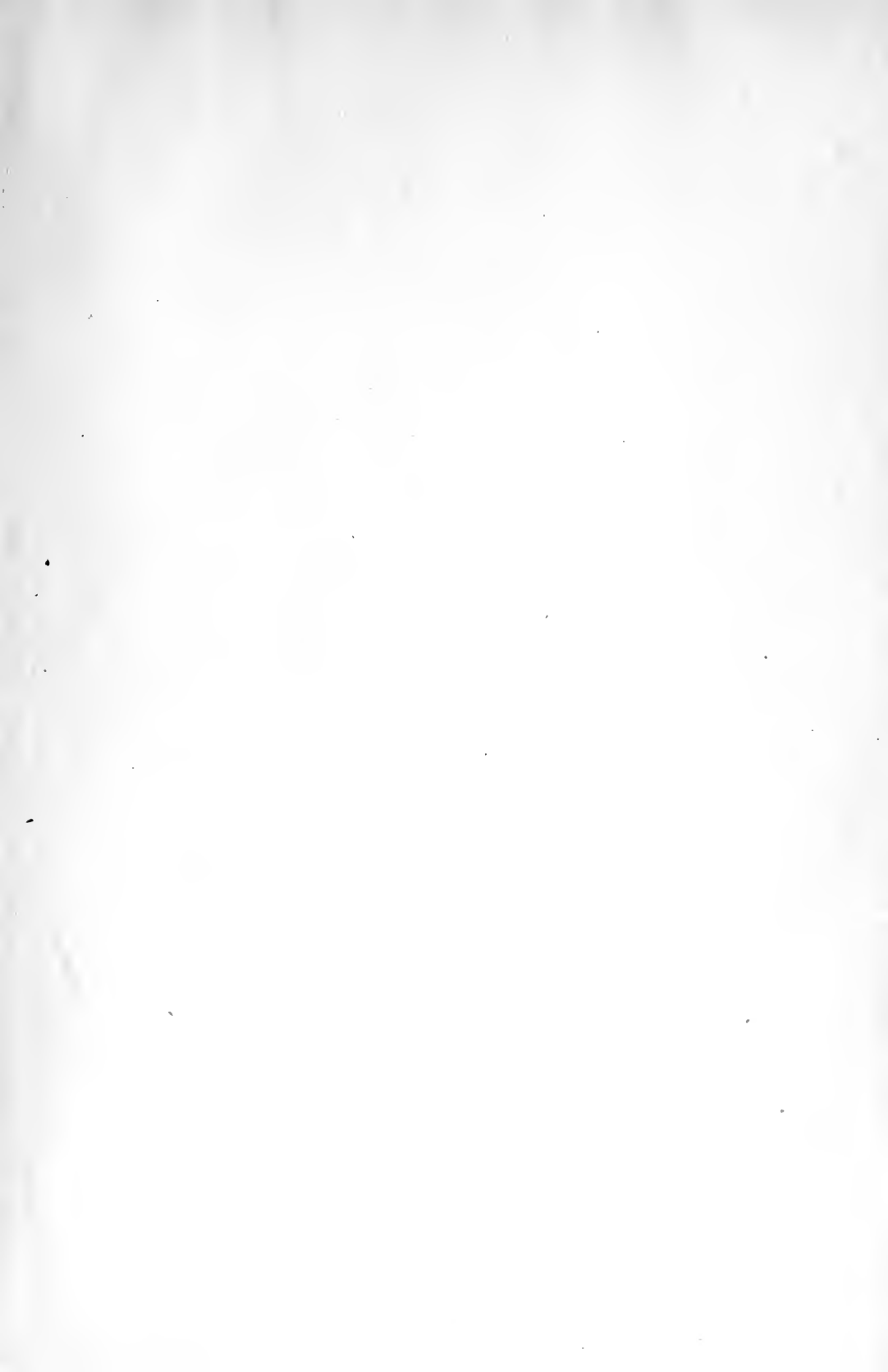
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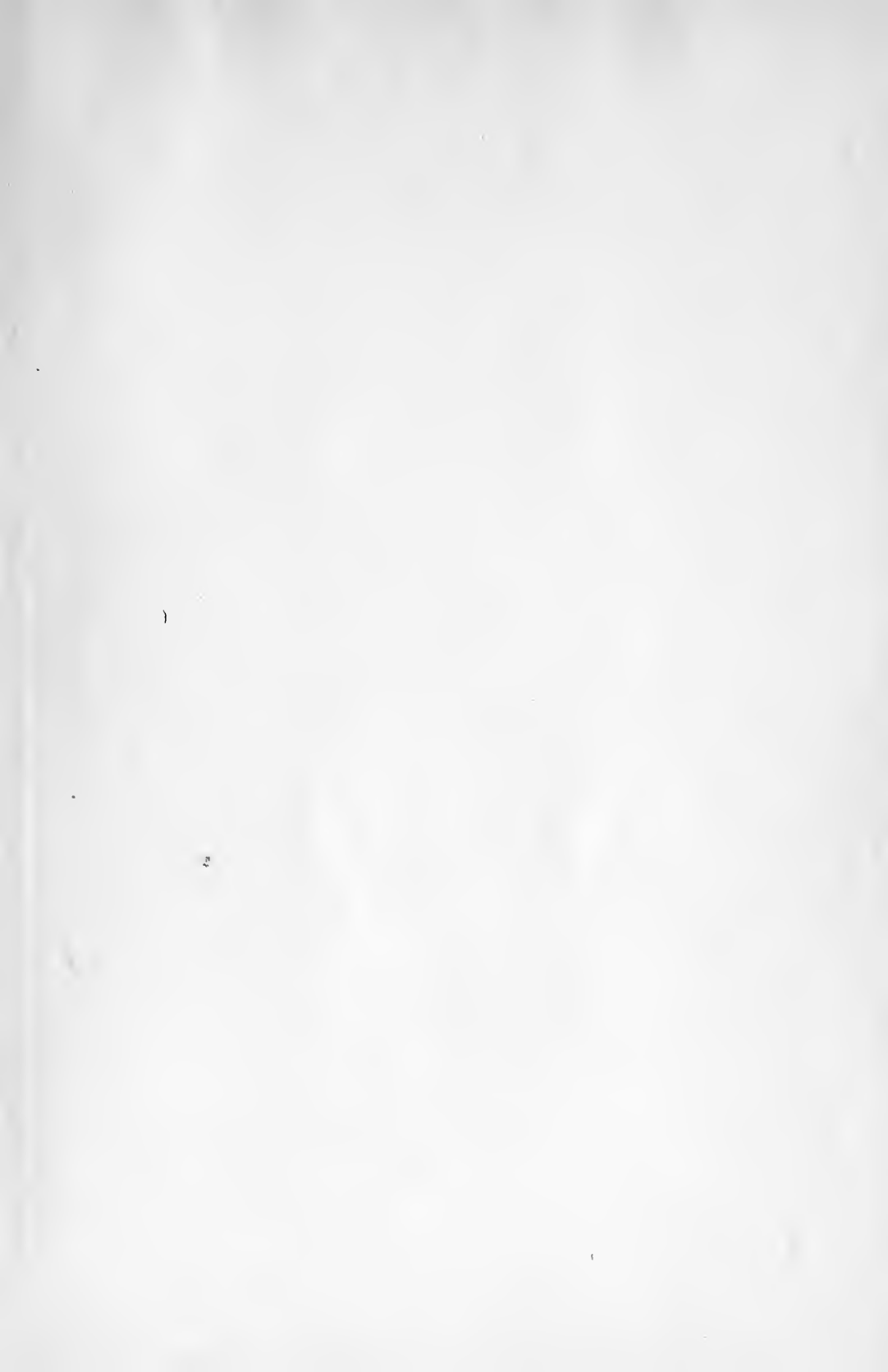
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